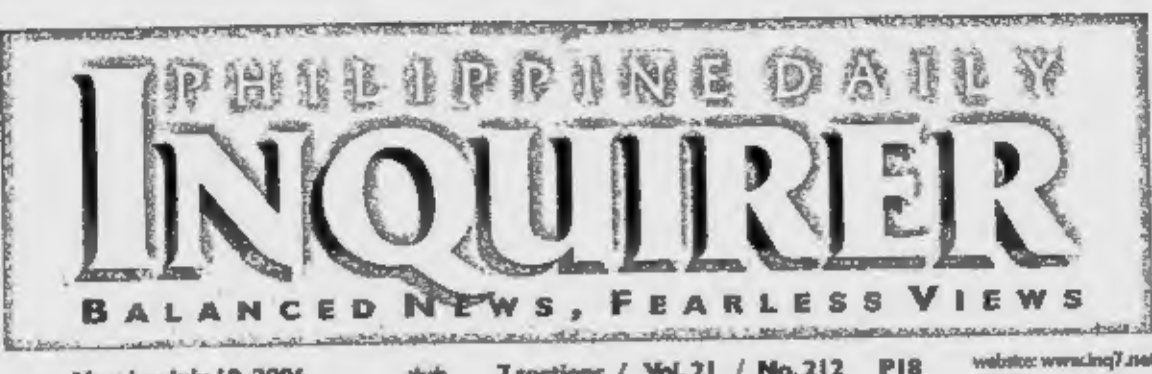


# Pope praises traditional family as God's plan

VALENCIA, SPAIN—POPE BENEDICT XVI ON Sunday praised marriage between a man and a woman as part of "a loving plan of God," as he defended the traditional family at a Mass attended by hundreds of thousands of people.

The service in a Valencia park was the highlight of a two-day trip challenging a Socialist government that had angered the Vatican by introducing such liberal reforms as gay marriage and fast-track divorce.

POPE/A12



PHILIPPINE DAILY  
**INQUIRER**  
 BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Monday, July 10, 2006    \*\*    7 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 212    P18    website: www.inq7.net

# Women leaving men in US academic dust

A QUARTER-CENTURY AFTER women became the majority on college campuses across America, men are trailing women in more than just enrollment. Statistics of the US education department show



POPE Benedict XVI recites a noon prayer at the Plaza de la Virgen in Valencia, Spain. He arrived on a mission to glorify traditional family values in a country whose government has been sharply criticized by the Catholic Church for legalizing gay marriage.

# CBCP told to beware of GMA gifts

## 3 bishops slam attempts to buy off Church leaders

By Christian V. Esguerra

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO HAS COME under fire for allegedly trying to buy off bishops as they discussed a Church stand on a renewed opposition attempt to unseat her over unresolved charges she stole the 2004 election, a participant told the INQUIRER yesterday.

The two-day annual plenary of the 124-member Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines closed yesterday. A statement on its decisions was expected today.

As the prelates sat down, Pope Benedict XVI sent a message of "spiritual closeness" that was regarded as sympathetic to the bishops who in recent weeks had come under criticism from Malacañang for allegedly violating the principle of separation of Church and state.

The rebuke was prompted by Bishop Deogracias Iñiguez signing of an opposition impeachment complaint against Ms Arroyo in the House of Representatives last month.

The Pontiff's message, relayed through Vatican Secretary of State Angelo Cardinal Sodano, expressed hopes that the Philippine bishops would "give ever more effective service as ministers of the word and sacrament and better prepare the faithful ... to be the authentic witness of the Gospel."

During the plenary, some bishops were placed on the hot seat over favors some of them were reportedly receiving from the President, according to one bishop, who requested anonymity because of the sensitivity of the issue.

According to the source, Bishop Jesse Mercado of Parañaque CBCP/A13

## Withdrawal of support depends on AFP unity

By Amando Doronila

THE VIDEO SHOWING BRIG. Gen. Danilo Lim declaring "withdrawal of support" from President Macapagal-Arroyo was planned to be broadcast on Feb. 24, 2006, the 20th anniversary of the 1986 "People Power" Revolution.

The broadcast was planned as the signal to set off a general public rising to topple the Arroyo administration, led by a messianic man on horseback. The plan misfired, and the video was not shown. It went under wraps and became a time bomb.

The bomb exploded last week when ANC of ABS-CBN showed it on public television. The blast showered a fallout that damaged both the regime and its enemies who had been plotting to overthrow it.

The video had all the props of a triumphal march of a Verdi opera. It shows Lim reading his proclamation against the backdrop of 10 or so officers, conjuring up the image of a junta—a classic setting of military cabal takeovers in Latin America in the 1970s. It was to be Lim's grand entrance as the "man of the hour."

The conspiracy had been elaborately planned, including the date of the proclamation and its sym-

WITHDRAWAL/A21

# PNP goes after financiers of Magdalo soldiers

By Luige A. del Puerto and Christine O. Avendaño

POLICE ARE BEEFING UP SECURITY around Congress ahead of President Macapagal-Arroyo's State of the Nation Address (Sona), and training their sights on the possible financiers of rebel soldiers arrested near the legislative complex, officials said yesterday.

"We have some idea but we cannot say," Philippine National Police chief Director General Oscar Calderon said when asked about the identities of the supposed financiers of the Magdalo group.

The military and police have raised suspicions that the captured Magdalo soldiers might be planning an attack on the Batasan building to coincide with Ms Arroyo's Sona on July 24 because they were arrested in a safe house near the legislature and allegedly had high explosives and a blueprint of the Batasan building in their possession.

The soldiers and two civilians captured with them, including a lawyer, have not been allowed to speak to media and could not be reached for comment.

Army chief Lt. Gen. Hermo-

genes Esperon said the rogue soldiers had money and several mobile phones and renting an expensive house at the Pil-Invest 2 subdivision when arrested.

Esperon voiced doubts that the resources for such things came from the junior officers' pockets.

Director Vidal Querol, Metro Manila police chief, said his office had begun coordinating with the House of Representatives

sergeant-at-arms on an elaborate security plan for July 24.

Querol said he would increase the number of men to be deployed inside and outside Congress from 8,600 to about 10,000.

Police will also tap village watchmen in securing the neighborhoods around the Batasan.

Querol said he also needed to

PNP/A1

# Distressed women find comfort in city sanctuary

By Blanche S. Rivera

IN A QUIET, ALMOST OBSCURE CORNER OF the bustling mall city of Mandaluyong sits a sanctuary for women healing from madness.

Here, people with improved mental condition are not called patients but residents. They do not call this government-run facility a mental institution. It is home, a place where they are not rejected, neglected or feared.

For 18 years now, the Sanctuary Center of the Department of Social Welfare and Development has been treating women with mental illness due to trauma from physical and sexual abuse, stress from extreme poverty, loneliness and neglect, and hereditary brain and hormonal disorder.

The center serves as a halfway home for patients from the National Center for Mental Health (NCMH) and those rescued from the streets of Metro Manila.

"Most people do not know how to manage

someone with mental illness, even the educated ones, professionals within the family. They easily get irritated, so some tend to hurt them," resident psychologist Mertie Sanchez told the INQUIRER in an interview.

Sanctuary residents are not severely ill like the ones in the NCMH. They are productive, socially functional, and are capable of activities for daily living. They can take care of themselves and attend to hygiene.

"What's important is to help them get back their ability for self-care because it's the first one that goes when they lose their mind," Sanchez said.

With only one janitor and one cook, the center's 119 residents practically handle the upkeep of the center, which has three wards, each with its own toilet and bathroom (which need immediate renovation), a clinic, common kitchen, dining and social hall, productivity room and an administrative office.

DISTRESSED/A4



MISS TOURISM QUEEN INTERNATIONAL Justina Gablonza (right) of the Philippines poses with her trophy after being crowned by last year's winner, Nikoleta Ralli (left) of Greece, in Hangzhou, China. Gablonza bested 84 other candidates from all over the world.

# Transport firms seek GMA help on SEAG bills

By Ronnel W. Domingo Business

LOCAL TRANSPORT SERVICE PROVIDERS were the biggest losers in last year's 23rd Southeast Asian Games as an estimated P30 million worth of receivables from government contracts related to the Games drove big dents in their coffers.

Officials of the six companies were appealing to President Macapagal-Arroyo to direct the SEA Games Organizing Committee (Philsoe) to pay them the full amount for services already rendered.

Reached by the INQUIRER late yesterday afternoon, Steve Montiveros, Philsoe secretary general, said "we are not denying that we have payables" and that "we are not running away from the problem."

The claimants—who said they were now in

TRANSPORT/A12

1407-1410

## DepEd to assess quake-readiness of all public school buildings

By Alcuin Papa

THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (DepEd) and other government agencies will assess the structural integrity of all public school buildings in the country to ensure the safety of students.

Some 60 buildings, mostly public

elementary and high schools, are in danger of sustaining "life-threatening" damage should a major earthquake hit Metro Manila, according to the Task Force on Building Inspection of the DPWH.

There are some 49,000 public elementary and high schools in the country.

The education department has formed Task Force Assist (Assessment of School Buildings Structural Integrity and Stability) together with the Department of Public Works and Highways, the Department of Interior and Local Government, the Department of National Defense, the Armed Forces of the Philippines-En-

gineering Brigade, the Association of Structural Engineers, and the Philippine Institute of Civil Engineers.

The task force aims to provide a safe, stable and secured learning environment for school children and to prevent further deterioration of school buildings.

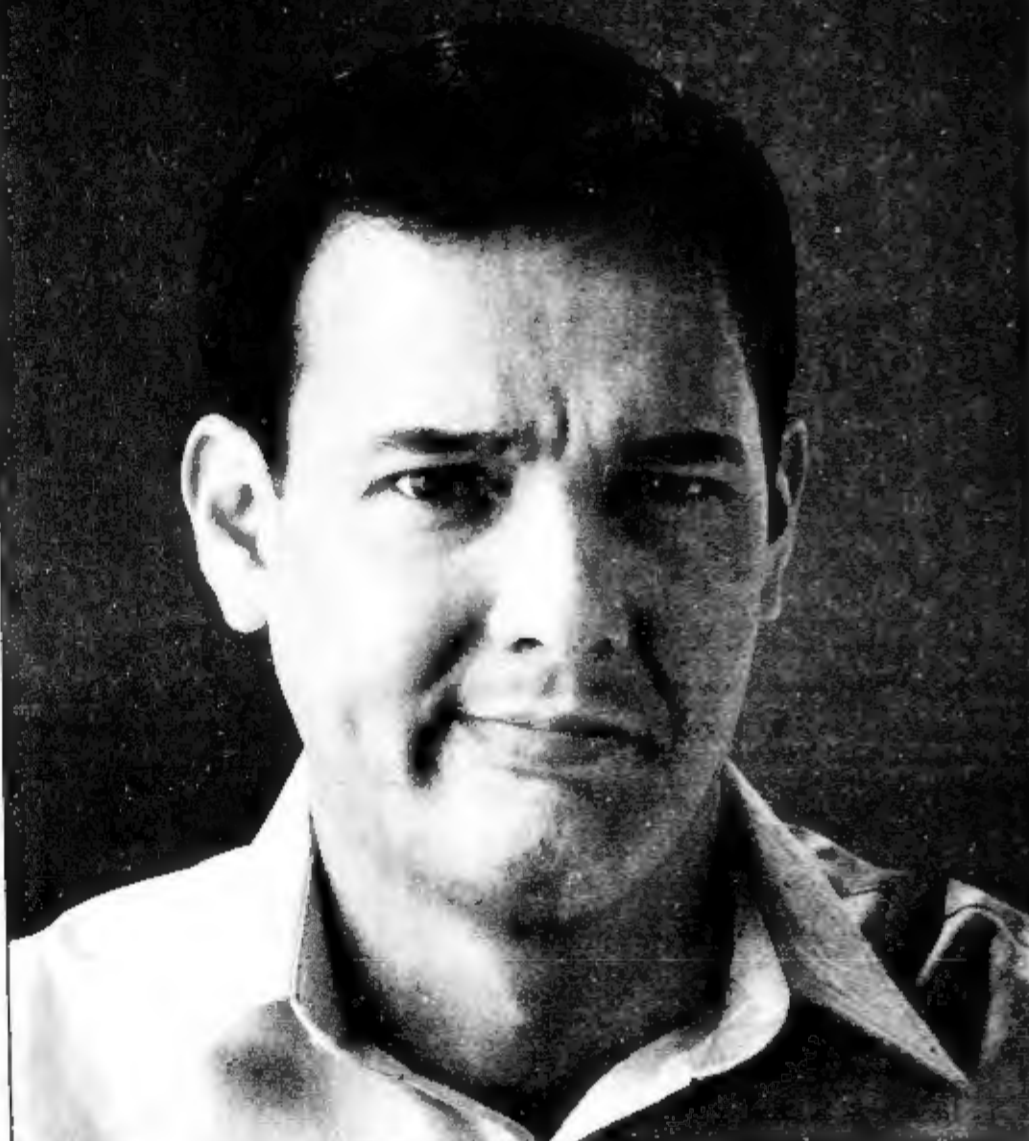
DepEd said the task force would con-

duct periodic assessments and inspections of structural strength and load-bearing capacities of school buildings.

The task force has been ordered to identify school buildings that are no longer safe for occupancy. In some cases, it can recommend the demolition or major repair and rehabilitation of buildings.

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Irene Salud-Oclarosa

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the Intense Pulsed Light technology to correct a variety of skin conditions and skin imperfections: freckles, skin discoloration, signs of aging, age spots, unsightly spider veins, broken capillaries, rosacea and other blemishes. Another fan of IPL is actress/interior design consultant Carmi Martin. She happily relates: "I used to have an uneven skin tone because of pigmentation and freckles. After IPL, my skin became even! In the past I'd always have to wear a make-up because I was afraid to let people see me without it.



Carmi Martin

Now, since I love going to Boracay, I can enjoy the sun and sea make-up free!"

IPL can simultaneously treat a wide variety of skin concerns safely and effectively. It erases skin damage with minor disruption on the skin's



Dr. Joyce performing the IPL Photorejuvenation Treatment on a client.

surface unlike other conventional treatments.

Restaurateur Cristina Gonzalez-Romualdez is another satisfied IPL client. She relates: "Some skin problems I had were freckles and a bit of melasma. IPL gave me a more even complexion. It helped remove the freckles and the melasma. I remember after the 3rd or 4th session, there was a big improvement. But even after the 1st session, I could already see an effect because my pores tightened. Somebody told me my skin was glowing...and this was right after an IPL treatment! The best thing about it is there's no downtime. Since I like going to the beach and going out of town, I'm always exposed to the sun. That's why I go for IPL treatments after an outing. I'm really happy with it!"

Irene, Carmi and Cristina are only three of many satisfied clients who have reported a reduction in age spots, freckles and other skin discolorations. Most women who

lead active and busy lifestyles are happy with the fact that aside from the visible improvement in their skin, they experience relatively no downtime. This means that one can actually have fairer, even-toned glowing skin after approximately 30 minutes of treatment, and can go to work on the same day, as if nothing happened at all!

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# Pro-impeach solons won't get Palace support

By Christine O. Avendano

MEMBERS OF CONGRESS WHO CONTINUE TO seek the impeachment of President Macapagal-Arroyo will not be supported by the administration during the elections next year.

Presidential Chief of Staff Michael Defensor

said yesterday it would be "very clear who will be for or against" the administration during the 2007 elections.

"There can be no gray area and this will be manifested in the national elections," Defensor said in a phone interview.

But he said what happened during last year's

political crisis had been "forgotten." That's why the administration continues to reach out to erstwhile allies in Congress, he said.

Last year, 51 members of the House of Representatives, including those belonging to the administration coalition, voted for the impeachment of Ms Arroyo, while 158 voted to junk the impeachment complaint.

A new impeachment complaint has been filed against Ms Arroyo. She is accused among others of committing fraud in the 2004 presidential election.

Members of the House who will sign the new impeachment complaint against Ms Arroyo are "clearly against the President and our leader" in the administration coalition, Defensor said.

"If there are candidates who will run against them, understandably we will support those who are for the President," he said. The President's po-

litical adviser Gabriel Claudio said members of the House supporting the new impeachment case "will not be deserving or can't expect support from the administration."

"They have declared themselves as political enemies" of the administration, Claudio said in a separate phone interview.

He said members of Congress must look at the impeachment complaint "with eyes and mind that care about our country's stability and potentials for progress."

"The administration's support for candidates in the next elections will be determined by how they respond to this challenge," he said.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye, for his part, said Ms Arroyo had learned to take "in stride" challenges to her leadership such as the new impeachment complaint.

"It must be her spiritual faith that has kept her above the fray, and steadfast in steering the ship of state to calmer waters," Bunye said.

He said he agreed with the one-page newspaper advertisement put out by the Federation of Philippine Industries, Inc. appealing for sobriety "amid alarming moves and quarrels in almost all corners." The ad was signed by FPI president Jesus L. Arranza.

Noting the FPI and business sector's concern on "needless and distracting quarrels," Bunye said that poverty was the "biggest enemy of all and it is to its obliteration that we must all come together as Filipinos regardless of partisan inclinations."

Oil firms hike prices by 50c/liter

By Abigail L. Ho

OIL FIRMS GAVE A week's respite to consumers, only to again raise beginning yesterday the prices of gasoline, diesel and kerosene by 50 centavos a liter and of liquefied petroleum gas by 56 centavos per kilogram.

Chevron Philippines Inc. was the first to hike prices, at 12:01 a.m. yesterday. Refiners Petron Corp. and Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. followed suit at 6 a.m.

Total (Philippines) Corp., Flying V and Seapetroleum Corp. adjusted prices upwards at 12:01 a.m. today. Unilco Petroleum Philippines Inc. and Eastern Petroleum Corp. were also poised to raise prices at 6 a.m. and 12 noon today, respectively.

Oil firms justified the increases by calling attention to the increase in prices of crude and refined petroleum products in the world market and the reinstatement of the 3-percent tariff on crude and finished product imports.

According to data from the Department of Energy, the regional benchmark Dubai crude jumped to an average of \$68.78 a barrel as of July 5, from \$65.22 a barrel in June.

The price of unleaded gasoline based on the Mean of Platts Singapore (MOPS) benchmark for refined petroleum products also increased.

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(Refer to the table)

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*Gloria Arroyo*  
**GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO**  
President of the Philippines



## DISEASE SURVEILLANCE SUMMARY REPORT

### Cases of Infectious Diseases

#### 2005 vs 2006 (week ended June 16)

DISEASE	2005	2006	Reduction/Increase
Dengue	10,282	4,992	↓ 51.4
Malaria	1,165	334	↓ 71.3
Meningococccemia	353	41	↓ 88.4
Leptospirosis	89	171	↑ 47.9*
Typhoid Fever	212	121	↓ 42.9
Cholera	20	15	↓ 25
Rabies	121	65	↓ 46.3
Non-Neonatal Tetanus	480	435	↓ 9.4
Hepatitis A	96	92	↓ 4.2
Measles	110	16	↓ 85.5
Neonatal Tetanus	101	21	↓ 79.2
Hepatitis B	221	118	↓ 46.6
Diphtheria	34	22	↓ 35.3
Pertussis	15	18	↑ 16.7*
Total	13,299	6,461	↓ 51.4

\*increase cases

MONDAY,  
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A5

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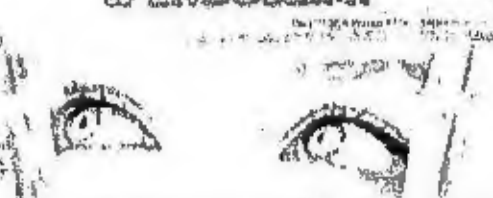
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LIVING WELL WITH DIABETES

## Kidnap victim rescued

COTABATO CITY—AN 11-year-old boy who was kidnapped in Parang, Maguindanao was rescued early yesterday, local officials said.

Parang Mayor Talib Abo said he outsmarted the kidnappers by making it appear that he had ransom money and that a payoff was set in Barangay Balut in Sultan Kudarat, Maguindanao.

"There was no ransom," Abo told radio station dxMS, adding that the victim was rescued.

"When the kidnappers called up that they were ready to return the boy in exchange for the ransom, I told them the money was ready," Abo recalled.

When the place was set for the payoff, Abo sent police men, soldiers and civilian volunteers. Upon reaching portions of the highway in Baran-

gay Balut, they saw the boy waiting by the roadside at around 1 a.m.

When the kidnappers saw several vehicles with police and soldiers, they fled, leaving the boy.

The kidnappers had demanded a ransom of P10 million but lowered the amount to about P5 million. The victim's family, who owns hardware stores in Parang, had insisted that they could not afford to give the money since it was barely a year ago when they lost another child to dengue.

The boy was taken by three gunmen who barged into his classroom at 2 p.m. on June 23.

Teachers and school officials tried but failed to stop the kidnappers. Edwin O. Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau

## Distressed women find comfort in city sanctuary

From page A1

Supervised by their house parents, residents cook, clean the house, do the laundry, and keep the place a cozy shelter, surrounded by trees and featuring a gazebo as their resting area.

"Many of them are mothers, so they know house chores. They did not need much training from us in doing their chores," social worker Remedios Eripol said.

The residents stay at the center until the DSWD can trace their relatives and assure them that the relatives are willing to take them back.

The Sanctuary Center provides all the medicines needed by the residents, including vitamins, antipsychosis, tuberculosis and hypertension drugs, as transferees from the NCMH usually have tuberculosis and other

respiratory problems.

The center has no problems securing these drugs. As an accredited donee of United Laboratories, the center receives P20,000 worth of medicines every month.

While it is difficult to trace the causes of mental illnesses of the residents, most of them appear to have the disorder since they were children.

### OFWs

About 2 percent were sexually abused while others were physically hurt or driven away by their own kin. Some are former overseas Filipino workers, who have weak coping mechanisms and ended up mentally ill when they returned to the country.

Rhodora, who was sexually abused by her father when she was 9 years old, spent four years in the Sanctuary Center before she was

reunited with her uncle in Bulacan.

Her uncle had spent for her treatment in the past, but brought her to the government facility when he could no longer afford the cost of medication and treatment.

A graduate of medical technology, Rhodora had worked in Saudi Arabia and had a daughter, who used to visit her at the center until the daughter was adopted. Rhodora suffered a relapse because of the separation from her daughter but is fine now in the company of her relatives.

### Acceptance

The Sanctuary Center started out with 145 residents this year. Twenty-eight have already been discharged and brought to their relatives from January to June.

"We don't give them back unless there is guaranteed acceptance from the families because if not, then they would end up again in the streets and back here," Sanchez said.

The DSWD also has to assess whether a family has the capacity to provide the medication and other needs of a resident before reintegration to avoid a relapse.

Sadly, many families tend to refuse this chance for reunion with their lost members. Some are too poor or too busy to take care of people with mental condition.

Another sexually abused resident, Cielo, finished journalism in a university in Manila. She was molested by her stepfather, but her mother had refused to believe her and even accused her of seducing the stepfather.

This could have been a precipitating factor in her mental breakdown, Sanchez said. The DSWD is still tracing Cielo's other relatives.

### Emotional support

Cherry, whose relatives in Quezon had expressed willingness to take her back, has refused to leave the center. She does not even want to go out to the mall with social workers for birthday treats.

"Many of them do not want to leave the Sanctuary anymore because they think we won't bring them back here. They don't want to experience the same rejection they suffered in the past. The social stigma does not go away," Sanchez said.

She said emotional support was the "No. 1 factor" in the healing of the women.

"It's easy to buy the medicines, but you cannot buy the emotional support. That's the most important," she said.

## Women leaving men in US academic dust

From page A1

that men, whatever their race or socioeconomic group, are less likely than women to get bachelor's degrees—and among those who do, fewer complete their degrees in four or five years.

Men also get worse grades than women, according to the statistics.

And in two national studies, college men reported that they studied less and socialized more than their female classmates.

Small wonder, then, women are walking off with a disproportionate share of the honors degrees—not only at elite institutions like Harvard, small liberal arts colleges like Dickinson College in Pennsylvania, but also at huge public universities like the University of Wisconsin and the UCLA, and smaller ones like the Florida Atlantic University.

Although men are going to college in greater numbers and are more likely to graduate than two decades ago, they now make up only 42 percent of the nation's college students.

### 'Much, much better'

And with sex discrimination fading and their job opportunities widening, women are coming on much stronger.

"The boys are about where they were 30 years ago, but the girls are just on a tear, doing much, much better," said Tom Mortenson, a scholar at the Pell Institute for Study of Opportunity in Higher Education in Washington.

Faced with applications and enrollment numbers that tilt toward women, some selective private colleges are giving men a slight boost in admissions.

On other campuses, female predominance is becoming noticeable in the female authors added to the reading lists and the diminished dating scene.

Professors interviewed on several campuses say that in their experience, men seem to cluster in a disproportionate share at both ends of the spectrum—students who are the most brilliantly creative, and students who cannot keep up.

Women now make up 58 percent of those enrolled in two- and four-year colleges and are, overall, the majority in graduate schools and professional schools too.

Most institutions of higher learning, except engineering schools, now have a female edge, with many small liberal arts colleges and huge public universities alike hovering near the 60-40 ratio.

In dozens of interviews on three campuses—Dickinson College, American University and the University of North Carolina, Greensboro—male and female students alike agreed that the slackers in their midst were mostly male, and that the fireballs were mostly female.

New York Times News Service

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# PNP goes after financiers of Magdalo soldiers

From page A1

see the Batasan blueprints seized from the soldiers so he could make further adjustments, which may include changes in the location of "control points" leading to the Batasan.

"I cannot minimize (the importance) of the security of the Sona," he said.

Querol said those attending the Sona would have to pass through "more aggressive frisking."

Although the military and po-

lice would not categorically say the Magdalo soldiers were planning an attack on Congress, Calderon said there were "indications" of it.

"There were about eight blueprints, one for each building in the Congress, and especially (one) on the (session) hall," he said. "We recovered high explosives that were ready for use. There were detonating cords. We also considered the proximity of PII-Invest 2 to Congress," Calderon said.

"There are already indications

they will conduct some destabilization (moves), to include the Sona," he said.

## Initial lead

Esperon said the military was working on the documents taken from the Magdalo soldiers to try and confirm their plans.

"Our initial lead (is the presence) of the blueprint of Batasan," Esperon said, stressing the need to prepare for contingencies.

"They had money, many cell phones, and were renting an expensive house. Could the (resources for these) have come from them?" he asked.

Esperon reiterated that detained First Lt. Lawrence San Juan had been cooperating with the authorities and said the Army was ready to present him to the public.

## Charges filed

The junior officer might name his group's civilian backers, he said.

Police have filed charges of illegal possession of firearms and explosives against the six Magdalo soldiers and two civilians, including lawyer Christopher Belmonte, who was also charged with obstruction of justice for harboring fugitives and direct as-

sault, said PNP spokesperson Senior Supt. Samuel Pagdila Jr.

"Document analysis and intelligence reports point to Belmonte as the conduit of the leftist organization with the ultrarightist Magdalo in this tactical alliance to advance the armed revolution and bring down the Arroyo administration," Pagdila said.

## Other targets

The President's chief of staff, Michael Defensor, said he had received information as early as last month that rightist elements allegedly planned to bomb the Batasan and Sandiganbayan buildings and business centers, such as the Philippine Stock Exchange, while Ms Arroyo was on a trip to Europe.

"The report was that while the President was out of the country, these elements will try to create a situation of destabilization and terror," Defensor said yesterday in a phone interview.

He said he got the information from a "reliable source of the administration" and relayed this to Ms Arroyo who then told him to

inform Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita and the Cabinet security cluster.

## Senators doubtful

Defensor said that according to the information he got, the alleged plan to bomb these buildings were to be carried out by "people known to be professional soldiers." He declined to identify them.

Some senators voiced doubts that the Batasan blueprint was proof of a plot to bomb the complex.

"Having a sketch of the Batasan and plotting to bomb it while the President delivers the Sona are as distinct as the word 'integrity' to her and her administration," Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said.

Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr. said such a plot, if true, was a "serious concern" but he doubted if the Magdalo would mount such an attack.

"The Magdalo wants public support for its objective. They will not inflict damage or danger to thousands of innocent civilians in Batasan. That's my own observation," Magsaysay said. With a report from TJ Burgonio

## Honasan still a cause for concern, says Senga

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

for concern."

JOLO, SULU—OUTGOING ARMED Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Generoso Senga said yesterday the threat of a coup had ebbed with the capture of six Magdalo soldiers, but fugitive former Sen. Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan remained a source of concern.

"I think (the threat) has greatly diminished," Senga told reporters during a farewell visit to the 104th Infantry Brigade in Camp Baurista here. "It's almost gone (although) in any organization there (will always be) issues. It's inherent. You can't satisfy everybody 100 percent."

But Senga said Honasan's remaining at large "is still a cause

Senga, who is retiring on July 21, made a round of farewell visits to troops in Tawi-Tawi, Sulu and Basilan.

Honasan went into hiding shortly after the failed Feb. 24 coup and after a Makati court issued an arrest warrant for his alleged participation in the July 27, 2003 Oakwood mutiny.

The former Army colonel has a P5-million bounty for his capture.

Opposition Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile believed military and police agents would have a tough time tracking down Honasan and said they'd probably think twice about putting the cuffs on him. With a report from TJ Burgonio in Manila

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## Families of slain farmers troop to Malacañang

By Blanche S. Rivera

THE FAMILIES OF SLAIN farmer leaders from Negros Occidental, one of the country's most problematic agrarian reform areas, are set to meet with Department of Agrarian Reform officials, the military and the police in Malacañang today.

Presidential chief of staff Michael Defensor had asked to meet with leaders of the Task Force Mapalad (TFM), a group which is organizing the beneficiaries of farmers who died in land-reform related incidents in Negros.

TFM leaders—Rico Adeva,

Mario Domingo and Wilfredo Cornea—were killed this year allegedly by their landlords' goons. Adeva was killed in April, Domingo in May and Cornea in June.

"We shall discuss the investigation of agrarian-related killings, peace and order in the affected areas, and the proposed indemnification/granting of financial support to the families of the victims," Defensor said in the notice of meeting issued to the TFM on July 5.

Some 50 farmers from Negros, most of them relatives of the slain agrarian reform leaders started their camp-out on Friday outside the DAR office in Quezon City.

## PSG: Ambush incident won't affect GMA trips

By Christine O. Avendano

PRESIDENTIAL SECURITY Group chief Brig. Gen. Delfin Bangit yesterday said that Saturday's ambush incident would not affect President Macapagal-Arroyo's other scheduled visits to the provinces.

Bangit said the PSG in coordination with the military was prepared for "worse case scenarios."

On Saturday, an undetermined number of communist rebels fired on a truckload of soldiers from the Army's 28th Infantry Battalion that helped secure the President as they were traversing Barangay Sibunga in Nabunturan town in Com-

postela Valley on their way back to their camp. No one was hurt.

Bangit said the ambush incident was apparently intended more by the rebels to "instill fear" rather than cause damage because the rebels fled immediately after strafing the Army truck.

"It's nothing but a cowardly act," Bangit said in a phone interview.

Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez said yesterday that he had reminded the President before about the danger of entering areas known to be strongholds of the communist New People's Army but the chief executive was not inclined to slinker in fear.

Gonzalez said he had advised

the President before about making such trips to NPA-infested areas.

Gonzalez said he had warned last year Ms Arroyo about a visit she was making in Samar, where NPA rebels are known to be very active.

But he said President Arroyo told him that if she couldn't go there, how could she expect the military to venture there as well.

The President, he opined, wants to "lead the way" and show that she was not scared.

Ms Arroyo's visit to Compostela Valley the other day came at a time when she had declared a renewed all-out war against communist rebels. The



BANGIT

President had set aside P1 billion in funds for the military and the police to crush the communist insurgency in two to three years.

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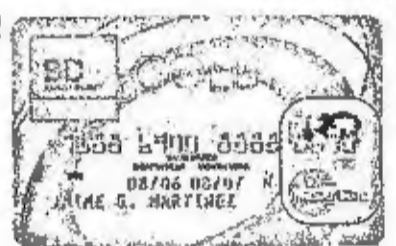
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# Jailed Oakwood officers mum on arrests

By Nikko Dizon

THE JUNIOR MILITARY OFFICERS detained for allegedly leading the failed 2003 Oakwood mutiny have kept mum on the recent arrest of their comrades.

"They'd rather not comment, but they did notice a few things," a source close to the Magdalo group told the Inquirer yesterday.

When the Magdalo officers were arrested on Friday, they should not have been treated like criminals, or even terrorists, the source said.

And despite being on the run for six months, the fugitives were looking good. Capt. Nathaniel Rabonza and 1st Lieutenants Sonny Samiriento and Patricko Burmading looked like "members of a rock band" since they all sported long hair and goatees.

"Hindi raw Magdalo yung nahuli kandi mga rockers (They arrested rockers, not members of Magdalo)," the source said, laughing.

No shooting  
The source, who requested anonymity,

said the Magdalo officers "naturally felt sorry" for their arrested comrades, especially when they learned how the raid in the Quezon City hideout was carried out.

"Pagball-balikarin man ang mundo (You can turn the world upside-down), they are still military officers on active duty. Kinasap man lang sana sila (They should have at least talked to them)," the source said.

Unless a Magdalo soldier was fired up on first, he would never shoot a fellow member of the Armed Forces, or for that matter, a member of the Philippine Na-

tional Police (PNP), the source stressed.

"Sabi nila, hindi nila kayang panatili ang mising mga taong pinaglalaban nila (They said they could never shoot the people they were defending). Not even in their dreams will they do that," the source said.

**Planted explosives?**

"They said they went to Oakwood precisely because they were fighting for the welfare of the military and the police. That is the essence of their fight. Kaya nga rin sila bumaba nang Oakwood kasi na-realize nila na hindi nila kayang makipag-barilan sa kapwa nila sundalo (That's why they decided to surrender because they realized they could not shoot a fellow soldier)," the source added.

Although the junior officers are now considered rebels, having broken the military chain of command, they certainly are not terrorists.

"Para silang mga terorista nang hinuli. Hindi kami ganun (We were treated like terrorists. But we're not terrorists)," the source said, quoting a Magdalo officer.

The explosives found in the hideout could have even been planted, the source added.

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# Pope praises traditional family as God's plan

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The visit also drew into focus the Church's opposition to Europe's long slide into secularism.

Hundreds of thousands cheered the Pope's remarks at the family rally in Valencia. By contrast, crowds booed and whistled Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero, whose government has pushed through various laws to prise away the Church's traditional grip on Spanish society.

The German-born Pope, wearing green vestments and a gold miter, stressed that the family was "founded on indissoluble marriage between a man and a woman."

Benedict said every family had its origin in God and that "at the origin of every human being there is not something haphazard or chance, but a loving plan of God."

Many of the pilgrims wore hats, T-shirts and backpacks with the Vatican's yellow and white colors and had camped overnight in a parkland area close to the papal altar.

Benedict celebrated Mass with the city's most famous and contested relic, a chalice some venerate as the cup Jesus used at the Last Supper.

## Holy Grail

The Holy Chalice, sometimes also called the Holy Grail, is a small agate bowl that tradition says could be the original cup used on the night before Christ was crucified.

The Valencia cup is said to have been brought to Rome after Jesus' resurrection to be looked after by the popes. Pope Sixtus II then gave the cup to the deacon of Saint Lawrence, who brought it home to Huesca, northern Spain.

It was hidden during various wars but has mostly been kept in the cathedral of Valencia since the mid-15th century.

The cup's authenticity has been doubted by many historians. Some say it may just be one of the many fake relics that surfaced in the Middle Ages. Others say Jesus would have used a plain cup, probably made of clay, at the Last Supper.

## A million crowd

Local police put the number that turned out in person to watch the Pope at 1 million.

Benedict's 26-hour trip was intended to address a worldwide church meeting on the family and support traditional values in Spain.

Zapatero had a 15-minute meeting with Benedict on Saturday afternoon but he did not attend Sunday's Mass. The service was attended by King Juan Carlos and Queen Sofia.

Zapatero was booed by neighborhood residents when he arrived to meet Benedict.

## Drifting from Church

The Vatican has warned that the family is under threat from such liberal reforms as gay marriage, which was recently legalized in Spain, as well as in the Netherlands, Belgium and Canada.

Many Spaniards have drifted away from the Church in the three decades since the fall of the Gen. Francisco Franco dictatorship, under which it enjoyed special privileges.

Spain has passed from being a bastion of Roman Catholicism to a predominantly lay society in less than a generation. Statistics show that while 80 percent of Spaniards still call themselves Catholics, only 42 percent believe in God and 20 percent go to Mass.

Benedict, visiting Valencia's 17th century cathedral, told his bishops he was aware of the secular drift in a country with "deep Christian roots" and urged them to "keep alive and vigorous this spirit, which has accompanied the life of Spaniards throughout their history."

Benedict addressed gay marriage before even getting off the plane.

"According to human nature, it is man and woman who are made for each other and to give humanity a future," he told reporters. "The Church can't accept certain things. At the same time, it wants to help people and respect them."

Thousands of police provided security, which included sharpshooters atop buildings and Awaacs planes from Nato patrolling the skies.

Benedict's comments on the trip seemed aimed at expressing the Church's view that marriage must be between a man and a woman without outright condemnation, but with absolute clarity.

"Let's not start with the negative," he told reporters when asked about how Church teaching squared with Spain's law allowing same-sex marriage.

"It's true that there are problems and things that Christian life says no to," he said. "We want to make people understand that according to human nature it is a man and a woman who are made for each other and made to give humanity a future."

Spain legalized same-sex marriages last year and since then about 4,500 couples have wed, according to gay group FELGT.

Local media said the Pope did not bring up the issue in a brief audience with Zapatero and instead focused on world problems.

While pilgrims lined Valencia's streets waving yellow and white Vatican flags and cheering, not everybody was so happy.

A group of young people stripped bare and bicycled through the town brandishing placards saying, "You're not welcome here." Reports from AP, Reuters, New York Times News Service



POPE Benedict XVI watches

## Transport firms seek GMA help on P30-M SEAG bills

From page A1

financial distress—include Budget Rent A Car, Carlines Transportation, Circle Transport, JT Lakbay Services, WLM Transpacific, and G & S Transport Corp. for the Avis brand.

Quincy Buenaflor, a manager of Budget Rent A Car, said the firms should have been paid in full immediately after the SEA Games ended in December last year, but government agencies failed to do so.

"Our services include the use of [chauffeur] cars, vans, buses and even trucks that moved sports officials, participating athletes, dignitaries and equipment to and from various venues during the games," Buenaflor explained.

He added that the firms, being competitors, did not reveal among themselves exactly how much the government owed them, but they agreed it was more or less P30 million.

## Down payment

Buenaflor said the firms' respective contracts with Philsoc—a joint effort between the private-sector Philippine Olympic Committee and the Office of the President—signed by its chair Jose "Peping" Cojuangco Jr., provided for a down payment or half of what the parties estimated would be the eventual cost.

"Polsoc was able to provide the initial payments, but the actual costs were double the original estimates," he said.

Further, Buenaflor said Philsoc had ceased to exist since the Games were over.

"We have been told to pursue our concerns with the Philippine Sports Commission, but the PSC has been vague about whether the accounts would be settled," he said.

But Hontiveros said the PSC was "preparing to pay" and that the papers were still pending at the Commission on Audit.

## Hard to collect

"We are getting more worried, with the approach of the 15th Asian Games [that would be held in Qatar in December]. If it is so hard to collect now, it will probably be harder at [another round of] heavy expenses for the government," Buenaflor said.

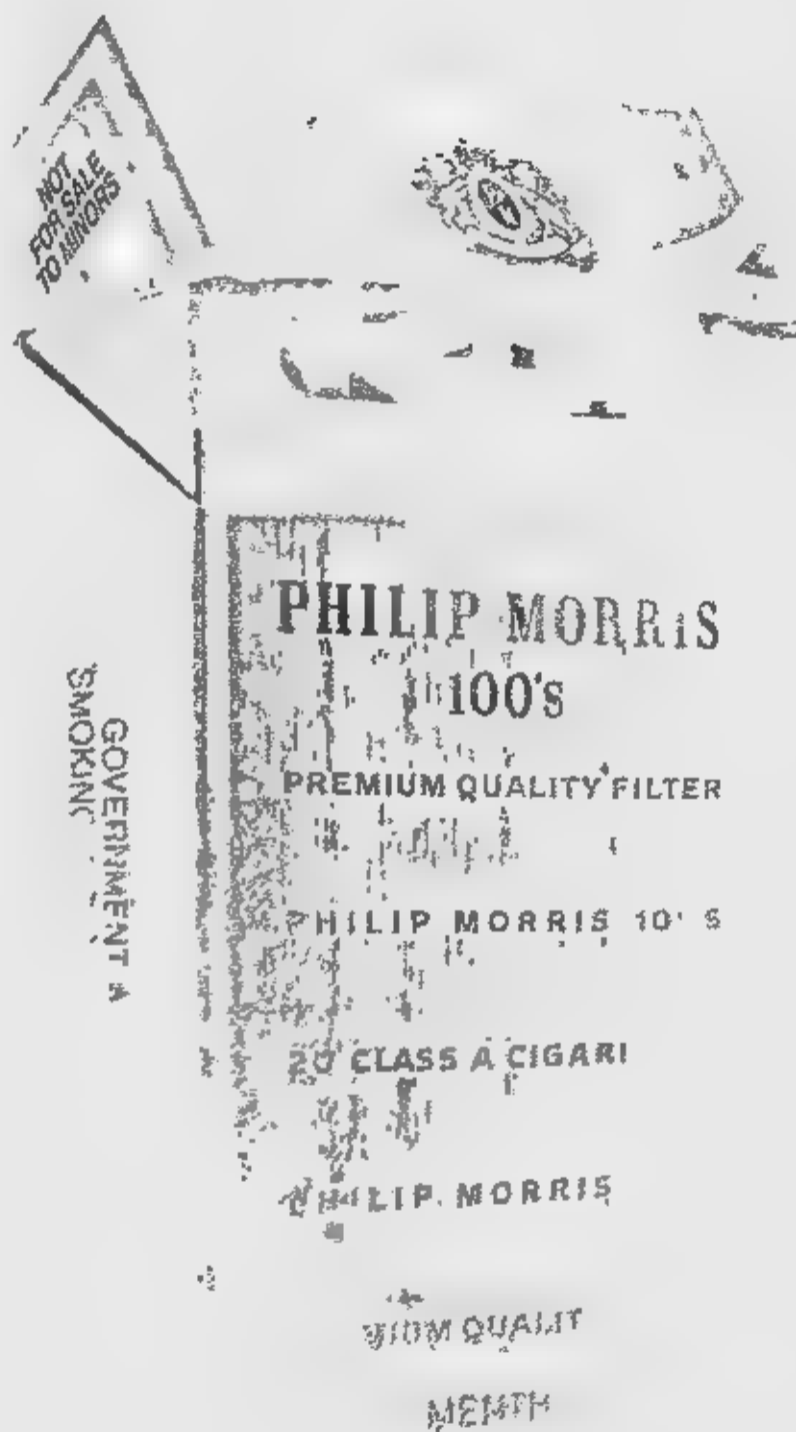
In a prepared statement, the six firms said that they should be paid in full because full services had been rendered and that they were in financial distress because they had spent for drivers services, fuel, toll and parking fees and other costs involved in servicing the participants of the games.

"Despite our apprehension, we still served the SEA Games requirement to uplift our country's tourism," they said.

"[We] came up with [our] own dispatching system despite Philsoc's being disorganized, to ensure that all participants would be provided with safe, reliable and efficient transportation."

They added that their predicament would make them more or less inclined to "deny future requests by government organizations" for their services. With a report from Mic

siang Castillo



# Government Warning is dangerous

# CBCP told to beware of gifts from President

From page A1  
specifically asked fellow prelates at the opening of the plenary on Saturday about Malacañang's offer of medicines, rice and other goodies for dioceses of bishops critical of Ms Arroyo.

"Bishop Mercado asked about the different ways through which Malacañang was trying to buy off the bishops," the source said. "He wanted to know what he should do about them."

## Dinner invitations

Mercado, 55, also reportedly mentioned instances when some bishops were reportedly taken to Malacañang to dine with Ms Arroyo.

On Monday, at the start of the weeklong CBCP retreat and plenary assembly, a group of bishops was said to have been invited to a restaurant in Intramuros by the President, the source said.

Bishop Ramon Villena of Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya, reportedly replied that he did not find anything wrong with donations of rice and medicines since they were for the poor.

But prelates like Archbishop Oscar Cruz of Lingayen-Dagupan and Bishop Vicente Navarra of Bacolod were adamant, according to the source.

"It's wrong. I couldn't accept them in conscience," the source quoted Navarra as saying during the plenary.

Cruz, a known critic of Ms Arroyo, reportedly opposed the idea because it would "tie our hands" to Malacañang.

In the end, the CBCP left it to each bishop to decide individually whether to accept Malacañang's donations and other favors, and be responsible for their actions, the source said.

Reached for comment, Magr. Pedro Quitorio, the CBCP spokesperson, declined to confirm or deny the report.

The CBCP plenary was to discuss, among other things, key issues directly involving Ms Arroyo, including the revival in the upcoming session of Congress of last year's impeachment case against her over charges she manipulated the 2004 presidential election, efforts to amend the Constitution and unabated killings of activists, journalists and Church leaders.

Ms Arroyo has denied any wrongdoing. Her allies in Congress had earlier told bishops to stay out of politics after Iñiguez joined the opposition's impeachment complaint. He said it was a personal move that did not involve his standing as a CBCP member.

## Not bothered by rebuke

Judging by the agenda of the plenary assembly, the prelates did not seem bothered by Malacañang's rebuke.

As of yesterday, the bishops were drafting a pastoral statement that was expected to cover the unresolved credibility crisis of Ms Arroyo, extending to issues such as Charter change and the impeachment case, according to a source privy to the deliberations.

The bishops entered their second plenary assembly for the year, inspired by "Deus Caritas Est" (God is Love), the first encyclical of Pope Benedict.

Cautiously though, Malacañang was invoking the same encyclical to ward off comments from bishops on social and political issues. The bishops have repeatedly explained that their position on issues was coming mainly from the moral perspective.

"The Church cannot and must not take upon herself the political battle to bring about the most just society possible. She cannot and must not replace the State," Benedict wrote.

## Church must play part

"Yet at the same time she cannot and must not remain on the sidelines in the fight for justice. She has to play her part through rational argument and she has to reawaken the spiritual energy without which justice, which always demands sacrifice, cannot prevail and prosper."

"A just society must be the achievement of politics, not of the Church. Yet the promotion of justice through efforts to bring about openness of mind and will to the demands of the common good is something, which concerns the Church deeply," the pope said.

At the height of demands for Ms Arroyo's resignation over the poll fraud allegations in July 2005, the CBCP issued a pastoral letter hammered out during its annual plenary refusing to join the clamor for her ouster but telling her that she should not ignore the calls that she step aside.

After the President's allies in Congress killed an impeachment attempt against the President in September 2005, the CBCP issued several statements urging her to put a closure to controversies hounding Ms Arroyo including the "Heilo Garci" wiretaps that indicated irregularities in the 2004 balloting.

The prelates also have criticized Ms Arroyo's moves to amend the Constitution and adopt a parliamentary system of government—an initiative which her opponents say is meant to keep her in power without removing the cloud of legitimacy hanging over her.



a performance during a meeting in Valencia, Spain.

NEUTERS

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MANILA Archbishop Gaudencio Cardinal Rosales and other members of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines arrive at the Pope Plaza Center in Manila for a meeting.

MANILA



## The problem remains

**T**HE CONTROVERSIAL VIDEOTAPE BRIG. GEN Danilo Lim made, to declare his withdrawal of support from his commander in chief, has run up against a wall of public skepticism. The problem isn't with the tape's contents; even Lim, the erstwhile commanding general of the First Scout Ranger Regiment, does not dispute the main facts. The problem is with the tape's provenance; its release or discovery seems to play right into Malacañang's hands.

### EDITORIAL

And the public can see through the appearances.

But we should be wary of attributing too much strategic savoir-faire to President Macapagal-Arroyo or her political lieutenants; politics is not an exact science and outcomes do not always agree with intentions. Yes, the Lim tape helps Malacañang make the public (not the legal) case for its declaration of a state of national emergency last February. In other words, it's a bold play in the perception game. But the tape also proves that the real problem undermining the armed services remains active, exactly like a fault line.

This problem is manifest even if Lim's own and most recent version of the tape's provenance is taken into account. Lim, or a surrogate of his who seems to enjoy direct access to the controversial general's innermost thoughts, has outlined the defense we will hear again and again in the coming days: Lim produced the tape, or agreed to appear on video, in order to delimit, or defuse, or defang (choose your own self-serving verb), the coming coup.

"He didn't want any more violence, but the young officers were hot," said a self-described key participant in the crucial meeting between Lim and more junior officers. Lim's decision to videotape his withdrawal of support, the source said, was meant to temper their hot-headedness, to channel their power-grabbing energies in a more democratic direction.

"In a way, the video even did the government a favor because it helped prevent violence," the surrogate said.

In fact, the increasingly expansive surrogate continued, there was really nothing to the events last February. "In truth, there was really no coup. There was no plan to attack Malacañang, take over networks, or hit police or military camps. Lim prevailed upon the junior officers and they finally agreed to a peaceful march."

As a legal defense, this narration of events is rather creative—even if it comes down a little too hard on the junior officers. But even if it had the virtue of being true, it cannot hide the essential truth about the armed services today: Restiveness continues to roil the ranks. That is the undeniable subtext of a five-month-old videotape.

Why does the restiveness continue to exist? Because the sense that the Armed Forces and the police were used to commit election fraud in 2004 continues to nag at the conscience of many soldiers and quite a number of policemen. We do not even think that most of the conscience-stricken necessarily share Lim's videotaped conviction (apparently different from his live, not-on-video position) that Ms Arroyo is a fake President. We think many of them merely want what we want too: accountability, the subjecting of even the very highest officials of the land to a reasonable process that will determine whether there is, in fact, liability or not.

Of course, there is an enormous difference between wanting accountability from a commander in chief whose mandate is in doubt and supporting a transition government which has no mandate at all. A soldier who cannot see the difference has no business serving in a democracy.

This brings us back to the Lim tape. We think it actually proves two things. It gives the lie to the repeated and increasingly irritated assertions by the President's many spokespersons that her crisis of legitimacy has been resolved, that so-called closure has been achieved. And it makes the case that some form of transparent accounting must take place, if the crisis is to end: an impeachment, a Congress-mandated inquiry, a revamp of the election commission, a mid-term election serving as a referendum. Nothing less would do.



## Cancel Masinloc sale and rebid it

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF THE POWER Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. (PSALM) must be loathe to give up the P16-million bonus they favored themselves with, so much so that—after seizing the \$14-million performance bond of YNN Pacific Holdings—they gave the corporation another 30-day extension, the third such extension, to deliver the P227 million down payment of its winning bid for the Masinloc power plant. The bonus is allegedly a reward for "a job well done" by PSALM for having been able to sell the National Power Corp.'s biggest power plant for \$561.74 million. This is a case of counting the chucks before they are hatched. As it has turned out, YNN Pacific cannot make good on its winning bid. It cannot even produce just the 40-percent down payment required to finalize the contract, despite several extensions.

If YNN cannot pay the \$227 million, then its winning bid will be canceled, it loses its \$14-million performance bond and the Masinloc plant will have to be bid out again. If the deal is canceled, then what is the P10-million bonus or reward for? "Siyang, kuarta na, naging bato pa," the PSALM board must be thinking.

Or, considering the eagerness of PSALM board members to collect the bonus right away, they may have already received all or part of the reward. In which case, they will have no refund the money—and if they have already spent it, where will they get the refund money?

There is no credible excuse for PSALM to justify the 30-day extension beyond saying that the \$561-million bid price is too good to give up.

First, its contract with YNN does not provide that it can grant YNN another extension after it has decided to forfeit the \$14-million performance bond.

Second, the extension defies logic. After penalizing YNN through the forfeiture of the bond, PSALM gives it another chance to commit the same illegal act.

Third, YNN has already been exposed: it is not a legitimate power firm but a mere con-

### As I See It

Neal H. Cruz



tract peddler that has no financial or technical capability to run a power plant like the 600-MW Masinloc plant.

Fourth, the June 30, 2006 third deadline given to YNN for the delivery of the down payment was non-extensible.

But one doesn't have to look too far to see the hand behind this anomalous development. Sources within the power industry have revealed that the PSALM decision was made upon orders of Malacañang. Malaysian Prime Minister Abdullah Badawi had reportedly called President Macapagal-Arroyo asking her to assist Rannhill Berhad's entry into the Masinloc deal. Rannhill is a Malaysian firm.

This clearly constitutes an act of interference by a foreign government into our internal affairs. Badawi has no legal or moral right to tell our government what to do in matters that are purely our own concern.

The President's advisers who are telling her to accommodate the Malaysian leader are doing her a disservice because of the serious legal implications of such intrusion. If the President is acting on her own on this issue, then she could have in her hands another ground for impeachment—for culpable violation of the Constitution, treason and betrayal of public trust.

The other officials behind the grant of another extension should be charged with graft and corruption, for giving undue advantage to a dubious entry as the expense of the Filipino people.

Filipinos are outraged by this third extension, because it will add to their burden. If and when YNN-Rannhill is able to pay the upfront fee and formally operates the plant, it is sure to

increase the selling price of its electricity (from the present P2.80 per kWh to more than P5 per kWh)—because of higher production cost—to recover its huge investment and earn a profit.

Before the new 30-day extension, PSALM had already given YNN two previous extensions. In the first two, YNN did not remit a single peso. Being merely a broker firm, YNN used the extensions to look for a willing partner that would take over its rights under the Masinloc sales contract. It was able to find that partner in Rannhill only last April, and from the takeover, YNN is set to earn \$8 million.

But here's the catch: Rannhill demanded from YNN that it first forge a supply contract with Meralco before it formally takes over. But Masinloc was sold as a merchant plant with no attached supply contract. Besides, all supply contracts must go through a public bidding as required by the rules.

So how did YNN-Rannhill try to solve these problems? By facilitating the issuance by the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) of Resolution 21, which suspended all requirements for a public bidding of supply contracts. The resolution came in an instant, in a matter of days. It helped that Sunny Sun, YNN's owner, used to be a business partner of Jesus Alcorido, one of the ERC commissioners who signed the controversial resolution.

With the resolution in place, it was now possible for YNN and Meralco to negotiate a supply contract away from public scrutiny. This was confirmed by Meralco itself last week.

But here's the hitch: If YNN succeeds in signing a supply contract with Meralco, it will result in even higher power rates for Meralco consumers because it will again raise production cost.

There is really no other way to resolve this controversy but to cancel YNN's winning bid, and to conduct another public bidding. Ban YNN from the second bidding process to erase whatever apprehensions prospective bidders may have as to the integrity of the bidding.

## Criminals

### THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros



worse. Far, far, worse. Yet Erap is in jail and GMA is in Malacañang.

If Lim committed any crime, it is only in trying to talk his superiors, who were the top brass of the AFP, into joining his cause. He seems to have been confident he had done so when he agreed to give that interview. To this day, I cannot comprehend how he could have possibly thought that his superiors, who had corruption charges hanging on their heads and were even then being fattened off the fat of the land by their commander-in-chief, could have been persuaded to bite the hand that fed them.

Indeed, if Lim committed any crime, it is only the crime of idealism, or optimism, of believing that his superiors could be capable of finally thinking of country before self, of being satiated at some point, of being alarmed at the hellish past their country had been plunged into, enough to say, "Tama na, sobra na, abuso na." If Lim committed any crime, it is only the crime of wanting to avoid bloodshed, which was what made him want to talk to his superiors to begin with, the younger officers already incensed at the way the AFP had been utterly perverted and used like penny riffraff to seal the vote in Muslim Mindanao, and ready to storm the gates of Hell or Malacañang, whichever bid more demons.

Truly, those are heinous crimes in this country today. To continue to believe in the decency of other people, including generals, and the wisdom of bloodless uprisings—that is deserving of the firing squad.

Indeed, even if Lim's actions constitute a coup plot and not just a mere withdrawal of support, what of it? If it were so, then it would have been a coup to end a coup. Indeed it

would have been a popular coup to end a widely detested coup. For make no mistake about it, the GMA regime is the product of a coup. It is a coup regime. It is a junta held by a few people. It is a seizure of power, no more and no less than Ferdinand Marcos' martial law was a seizure of power, albeit one done through the ballot rather than the bullet, by Garcia rather than by goons, by force rather than by force. It is no less vicious and murderous for being so the usurpation now currently being propped up by the thuggish ways of dictatorship. Illegitimacy is the handmaiden of dictatorship. So it was in Marcos' time, so it is in GMA's time.

The real crime isn't Lim plotting to oust GMA and attempting to get his fellows in uniform to go along with him, it is GMA actually ousting democracy, whose cornerstone is that the people may be ruled only by the leaders they voted for, and conscripting the very sectors of society that once ousted a president who had betrayed the public trust to go along with her.

The real accessories to the crime are not the civilians and military officers who did go along to end a vicious farce; it is the bishops who thought to lend a halo to a usurper, shown by the "Helo Garcia" tape to be willing to agree to kidnapping to silence a witness; the businessmen who kept asking, "But who do we replace her with?" as though an illegitimate leader can ever be better than a dog; the pillars of civil society who proved they were hollower than the prop pillars Hollywood used for "Samson and Delilah"; the congressmen whose only heroic act was to look at the faces of the heroes in the peso bills that flooded the Batasan during the impeachment bid; the lawyers who argued that there could possibly be any shred of sanity, not to speak of legality, in preventing Gudani and Balutan from telling the world GMA was a cheat apart from a liar; the tired, cynical and resignation-filled Filipinos who kept saying, "Sige na lang, let's move on," as though life could ever move a muscle while being pummed down by a rubble called Injustice. Look at them:

Criminals all.

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## The Palace and the CBCP

ABOUT TWO YEARS AGO, THE SUPREME COURT admonished a judge for her handling of a case challenging the right of religious leaders to endorse candidates. The Court minced no words endorsing that the judge acted "with inexplicable haste, [and] with total ignorance of the law." Now the judge is in peril of being administratively disciplined for what she has done. Having been charged with "ignorance of the law" is not very flattering for a judge. But the fact is judges have been dismissed from the service for ignorance of the law.

While that pronouncement of the Supreme Court on the case was a welcome relief from another annoying election-time litigation, the decision was less about separation of Church and State than about the competence of the lower court judge. You could sense from the tenor of the Court's language that it would have wanted to grapple with the issue if it had been properly raised. The issue of separation of Church and State, the Court said, was "of paramount interest" and "was both of transcendental importance and novel in nature since it had never been decided before." But the Court refrained from touching the issue because of the technical shortcomings of the judge's decision.

If Church critics will put their money where their mouths are, they may yet give to the Supreme Court the opportunity to deal with an issue which is both of "transcendental importance and novel in nature."

The issue which started the case two years ago was whether church leaders could endorse candidates. Until now the Supreme Court has not had the opportunity to decide whether or not religious leaders violate the Constitution when they support the candidacy of a person vying for office or even campaign for his election. Now the issue has come out again, but in a different form: May a religious leader join those who file an impech-

### SOUNDING BOARD

Fr. Joaquin G. Bernas, S.J.



ment complaint against the President?

My constant view on the role of religious leaders in the political arena is that the non-establishment provision is a command addressed by the Constitution to the State. The Constitution says, "No law shall be made respecting an establishment of religion." It is out of this text that the doctrine of "separation of Church and State" has been derived.

Thus, the 1973 Constitution added the principle that "The separation of Church and State shall be inviolable." But inviolable by whom? Judicial records are replete with decisions setting down how and when the State in one way or another may be said to have "established religion" or violated separation of Church and State. But you can comb the decisions in both Philippine and American jurisprudence and you will find no decision pointing to a non-state entity as having violated the non-establishment clause. A non-state entity like a church may be a victim of a violation of the separation rule, but the violation is done not by the church but by the State.

Briefly, the non-establishment clause was not meant to be a protective mantle for the State but a command to the State to let the people decide how they will deal with their God.

When you examine what are called violations of the separation rule by a churchman, what they really mean is that the churchman has committed a political impropriety or an ecclesiastical impropriety, neither of which is the same as a constitu-

tional violation. It is possible that the churchman may even have violated Canon Law. Churchmen, after all, operate under two legal regimes, secular and ecclesiastical. But the ecclesiastical regime is outside the jurisdiction of the state.

I must add, however, that just as churchmen do not lose their right to criticize acts of government officials, so too politicians retain their right to criticize their church leaders. Churchmen should also listen to the voices from the pews.

The flip side of the non-establishment clause is the free exercise clause. It is on the basis of the latter clause that the right of churchmen to speak out is firmly and constitutionally anchored. "The free exercise of religious profession and worship, without discrimination or preference, shall forever be allowed. No religious test shall be required for the exercise of civil or political rights." Applied disrespectfully to religious leaders, this translates into the constitutional doctrine that even religious leaders have the constitutional right to make fools of themselves. Needless to say, politicians also have that constitutional right.

Finally, however, let me just say that should churchmen stop being controversial for the sake of avoiding controversy at all costs, then churchmen should examine whether they are being faithful to their vocation. I am writing this piece on the morning of the 14th Sunday of Ordinary time, after I read the liturgical readings for this Sunday. Three great religious leaders are featured: Ezekiel, Paul and Jesus. All three faced rejection in their time. As God put it to Ezekiel: "Hard of face and obstinate of heart are they to whom I am sending you." All three, however, measured success not by the extent of their popularity among the people but by their fidelity to what they saw as their God-given mission. Thus, if you are expecting churchmen to back away from public controversy, you are headed for disappointment.

## They're at Malthus again

I AM REFERRING TO THE ANTI-LIFE AND ANTI-family advocates who seem not to run out of clever ways to insert their Western-based agenda into every conceivable legislation they can think of. Now they would have 21 bills of various concerns consolidated into an omnibus law covering reproductive health, population policy, two-child policy and sex education for the youth. Of the bills, at least three promote the use of artificial contraception in the guise of promoting "women's health."

These advocates have turned a valid societal concern into a euphemism for their real agenda—population control. If they really want to address women's health, why is there no attempt to include Senate Bill 3197? The bill seeks to ban abortion drugs and devices. The bill's exclusion gives away outright the sinister intentions of the advocates.

The basis of their argument, of course, is the erroneous belief that a decline in population means economic growth and development. Thomas Robert Malthus was an English demographer and political economist who lived from 1766 to 1834. It was he who introduced the rather pessimistic principle that foresaw the world's population outrunning food supply, leading to a decrease in food per person.

To check population growth, Malthus advocated, among other solutions, what he called "moral restraint and vice." This population control strategy called for late marriage and sexual abstinence, but it also advocated infanticide, murder, contraception and homosexuality. But here's the catch in the Malthus proposal: these solutions would apply only to the poor and working classes. In the Malthusian argument, only the lower social classes would assume responsibility for societal ills.

Since then, many have misinterpreted Malthus, even overlooking other aspects of his argument. For example, there are those who ignore the fact that Malthus himself, even as he pressed for population control, stated that we cannot denigrate man's capacity (he called it "power") to increase food supply.

### KRIS-CROSSING MINDANAO

Antonio J. Montalvan II



Those who do cling to Malthus' theory up to this day misinterpret not just his thoughts. In their vain desire to adapt the Western culture of licentious behavior in the name of freedom and self-determination, they have put up their own smokescreen to keep them from seeing a succession of various scholars and studies that have effectively debunked Malthus since the 1960s. At least one such study, published in 1966, was not only a pioneering initiative at that time; it gave its proponent a Nobel Prize honor. Since then, up until the 1990s and the present, a progression of other studies has only pointed to the emerging reality: there just is no population bomb.

Not only that, countries that have been lured by the Malthusian myth into running a "successful" population program now have to address the grim reality of diminishing human resource. Japan, Germany and Italy are now in the throes of the so-called "demographic winter." The governments of Russia, Singapore, South Korea and Bulgaria are now offering incentives to encourage childbearing in an attempt to curb population decline.

Yet here in the Philippines, anti-life advocates—usually *pikon* when criticized despite the fact that they have access to the legislative powers that be—cling to an out-of-touch, outdated and archaic thinking that even their Western gods have failed to prove in their respective countries. The advocates seem not to hear the alarm bells ringing in countries where the demographic winter has set in, countries that are now repentant at having toyed with Malthus' theory.

Why the recalcitrance on the part of our anti-

life advocates? There clearly is a colonial agenda here that is tied to Western purse strings. These agenda-makers may not be obtrusive with their presence. It is even possible that some advocates are aware of them or have yet to notice them. But I won't be surprised if there lurks in the shadows such anti-life giant octopuses as Planned Parenthood, whose tentacles may have spread far and wide to influence Philippine legislative efforts.

Population control is simply not the solution to poverty. The Philippine population control program, in place since the 1970s and funded by billions of pesos of public money, has brought down the population from 3.08 percent during the period 1960-1970 to 2.36 percent during the period 1995-2000. Despite the population decline, however, poverty incidence has not been reduced significantly. Clearly then, there are other factors that are not being addressed. Try curbing graft and corruption, as we expect legislators to do.

The proposed bills are premised on the belief that we are poor because we are too many. Fewer births may (or may not) mean less expense for a family, depending on its priorities. What is certain, however, is that less births mean less people for the labor force in the next 20 years. Higher population densities do not necessarily translate into lower personal income. We have certainly seen this in densely populated areas that exhibit higher incomes and greater economic activity (the National Capital Region, Southern Tagalog, Cebu, Davao, Hong Kong, Singapore, South Korea; as opposed to Bolivia, Kenya, Ethiopia, which have lower density but also lower personal incomes).

Finally, when must we put a stop to the use of the term "reproductive health" which, in international forums, is simply a catch-all jargon that includes abortion; but which local advocates have repeatedly denied? The attempt to redefine a term that has become part of an all-encompassing political definition is a lame method of deceit and dishonesty.

Comments to montalva@cu-cdo.edu.ph

## Malig debunks Defensor

FILIPINO WIT IS BEYOND THE POWERS OF THE Philippine National Police, Armed Forces of the Philippines, or any executive order or presidential proclamation to control. And so when Presidential Chief of Staff Michael Defensor announced his Madyas Confederacy, cheeky text messages and e-mail and blog comments proliferated (I leave it to the clever reader to determine what "Madyas" could be an anagram of).

Jojo Pasion Malig, in his blog (<http://writingthirty.blogspot.com>) took a scholarly approach to Defensor's brainchild, suggesting that it betrayed an ignorance of accepted research on the subject. Defensor's organization is based on the misconception that the book "Maragtas, or History of Panay from the first inhabitants and the Bornean immigrants from which the Bisayans are descended to the arrival of the Spaniards," written by Pedro Alcantara Monteciano in 1907, was based on historical facts and not—as Alcantara himself clearly stated—a collection of legends culled from various sources. That mistaken impression was fostered by historians and clarified by William Henry Scott in a thesis defense, later incorporated in his book, "Philippine Source Materials for the Study of Philippine History."

Malig's writing forced me to dig out my musty old copy of Scott's book, "The Maragtas," on "The Confederation of Madiaas." Scott wrote that "Maragtas" is "an account of seven resolutions adopted by the seven Panay *datu*s as a kind of political constitution. They agree to renounce the island Madiaas and divide it among the senior three, with [datu] Sumakwel exerting executive authority over the two and retaining immediate jurisdiction over the lesser four, with legislative power upon attestation by any two of these; that the three ranking rulers will receive the oaths of office before the others and a priest; and that no taxes will be levied save a religious contribution every seven years." Scott added that "Since this appears to be the oldest political constitution in Asia, its authenticity must be carefully considered."

Careful consideration, Scott asserted (and a pen-

### THE LONG VIEW

Manuel L. Quizon III



el of senior historians that vetted his thesis agreed) that the evidence isn't there, either in terms of actual, provable documents or from echoes of such a political arrangement in Panay: "The Maragtas," therefore, gives no reasonable grounds for supposing the existence of any prehispanic 'Confederation of Madiaas.' Which means, Malig says (and rightly so), "One big problem for Defensor and his gang. It's pseudohistory at its best."

Malig has also been waging a lonely crusade for the reconsideration of the names given some of the highest honors of the Republic: the Orders of Sikatuna and Lakandula (the Order of Kalantiaw, named after what's been proven a historical hoax, was discontinued in the reforms of 2003).

The Order of Sikatuna is conferred on diplomats and those who've fostered friendly relations between our country and other nations. It commemorates the first blood compact between the Philippines and a foreign country. But Malig stressed: "Point of clarity: The first blood compact was between Ferdinand Magellan and the king of Mazaua, Raja Siaiu (Si Ayo for easier reading). This happened on Holy Thursday, March 28, 1521 [or] 44 years before the Sikatuna event in Juan Luna's [famous painting] 'Pacto de Sangre.' [Thus] the first recorded treaty between the Philippines (named San Lazaro at the time and, to be precise, it was only Cebu that was bound by the treaty) and a foreign country was on Tuesday, April 9, 1521. This was negotiated by Magellan and Cebu's Raja Humabon's nephew aided by Raja Siaiu and 11 others."

Malig has been hoping, since 2005, that "Raja Siaiu will replace Sikatuna." A letter, pointing out

the historical error, has been sent to President Macapagal-Arroyo. "Speedy action is needed; it is internationally embarrassing for the Philippines to be awarding foreign dignitaries a decoration that represents the apotheosis of ignorance in history."

I've been aware of this issue for some time, and the problem it posed was a practical one: what of the legions of distinguished individuals conferred the Order in the past? It seems to me, upon reflection, that without diminishing the Order, or having to change its appearance or the criteria for its conferment, the problem could be fixed by an executive order announcing that "henceforth, the Order of Sikatuna shall be known as the Order of \_\_\_\_\_, in the light of advances in Philippine scholarship since the 1950s." But the National Historical Institute, representing a consensus among historians, has to pass a resolution advising the government of this solution. Will it be the Order of Si Ayo (if the Order will commemorate the first blood compact), or the Order of Humabon (if the first treaty is to be recalled)?

The Order of Lakandula, established in 2003—and very recently modified to permit the conferment of the unique (in international practice) rank of "Champion for Life" on Manny Pacquiao and a beauty queen—has also been criticized by Malig: "But if I am ever awarded the medal in [the] service of [my] country, I will not be too enthusiastic about the subject since Lakandula—chieftain of Tondo at the time of the Spanish arrival in Manila and [after] whom the award is named—received a mighty tongue-lashing from Macabebes datu Tarik Sulayman, for having submitted to the Spanish with nary a struggle. Lakandula most likely [belonged] to the Kapampangan warrior-nobility since Tondo, at that time, was a Moslem-Kapampangan garrison and stronghold, and 1640 Kapampangan fighter Francisco Lakammana traces his roots to Lakandula." As Malig puts it, "If anything, Lakandula would have been the anti-thesis of a Kapampangan warrior—more concerned on the realpolitik of his period than anything else."

## Cha-cha power grab

IN A POSITION PAPER AND FULL-PAGE ADVERTORIAL (PDI, 6/22/06), One Voice, a non-partisan group advocating a five-point process to address the political impasse, noted that the current "people's initiative" is legally flawed and deceptive; and that the proposed changes will take away power from the people and hand it over to those who already have too much of it. What are the bases of One Voice's observations?

1. The people's initiative is legally flawed. Initiative as a mode of amending the Constitution is provided by the Constitution (Sec. 2, Art. XVII), but is at the moment not available for lack of an enabling law. In *Santiago v. Comelec* (1997), the Supreme Court held that RA 6735, the Initiative and Referendum Law, as worded, does not apply to the amendment of the Constitution by initiative. Moreover, a proposal to change the form of government from presidential to parliamentary is a revision, not a simple amendment, of the Constitution. Initiative as a mode of Charter change is not applicable for revisions.

2. The current Initiative is based on deceptive reasoning. Contrary to the claim that a shift to a parliamentary system with a unicameral legislature will put the country on "a trajectory toward long-term economic progress and political stability" and that "experience in every region around the globe has shown that this system works best in any country, under any culture," there is no conclusive empirical evidence to this effect. (A review of existing empirical studies by Prof. Solita Monsod is posted at [www.onevoice.org.ph](http://www.onevoice.org.ph).) Neither are the claims about the "restrictive" effects on foreign direct investment (FDI) of the economic provisions of the present Constitution borne out by facts (see One Voice position paper at [www.onevoice.org.ph](http://www.onevoice.org.ph)).

3. The proposed changes will give even more political power to people who already have too much of it. This observation is made in the context of the relatively high concentration of political power in Philippine society today. These proposed changes are:

3.1. Proposal to take away from the people their power of directly vote for President, leaving the Parliament to choose the prime minister from among them. This is proposed by the People's Initiative Petition (PIP), the House Committee on Constitutional Amendments (HC) and the Consultative Commission (CC). HC and CC also propose that the President be elected from among the Members of Parliament (MPs).

3.2. Proposal to create a powerful Interim Parliament composed of incumbent politicians (senators and representatives) that would decide whether the 2007 elections will be held or not. The CC, HC and PIP all propose such an Interim Parliament. The CC proposes that there be no elections in 2007 and that the terms of all elective officials be extended to June 30, 2010. The HC proposes that elections for regular MPs and local officials be held in 2007, but the plebiscite will ask the people whether they want to have the elections in 2010 instead, thus extending the Interim Parliament until 2010. The PIP proposes that the Interim Parliament shall provide for the election of regular MPs, to be held simultaneously with local elections, but no date or year is fixed for this election to be called, and the Interim Parliament shall continue until the regular MPs are elected.

3.3. The proposal to create a super-President with additional prime ministerial powers. The CC, HC and PIP propose that during the transition period, the incumbent President shall be the head of state and head of government until 2010, and the PM shall be under the direction of the incumbent President and shall exercise only such powers as may be delegated to him/her by the incumbent President. In other words, the President will keep the powers specified by the 1987 Constitution, while enjoying the powers of prime minister under a new Constitution—an arrangement highly vulnerable to abuse. Not only will there be no separation of powers, as in an American-style presidential system, but the chances of a vote of no-confidence and of a call for new elections, as in the case of a classical parliamentary system, are very slim.

3.4. The authority for the Interim Parliament to introduce even more amendments, some of which may not even be known to the people today. As part of the Transitory Provisions, the PIP proposes: "Within forty-five days from ratification of these amendments, the interim Parliament shall convene to propose amendments to, or revisions of, this Constitution consistent with the principles of local autonomy, decentralization and a strong bureaucracy."

3.5. For instance, an amendment to restore the power of the President to declare martial law on "imminent danger" of rebellion—a Marcos gambit. The CC (and HC) proposes that the President (or PM) shall have the power to suspend the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus or declare martial law in case of invasion, rebellion or imminent danger thereof, upon the advice of the PM, and when the public safety requires it.

3.6. Or, amendments that will weaken the Supreme Court. Both CC and HC propose the deletion of the Court's power to (i) review the sufficiency of the factual basis of the proclamation of martial law or the suspension of the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus; (ii) determine whether or not there has been a grave abuse of discretion amounting to lack or excess of jurisdiction on the part of any branch or instrumentality of the government. The CC also proposes that the vote required for the tribunal to decide cases involving the constitutionality, application, or operation of presidential decrees, proclamations, orders, instructions, ordinances and other regulations, be increased from majority to two-thirds vote.

3.7. Or, amendments to open the door for those in power to stay on indefinitely. As discussed in 3.2., incumbents will have the opportunity to remain in power at least until 2010 if no elections are held earlier. There is no prohibition in any of the proposals against incumbents (including the President and the Vice President) from running in any parliamentary elections to be held in 2010. In addition, MPs who win in 2010 shall have a term of five years, without any limit to the number of terms.

Once the Interim Parliament assumes plenary powers, it will be hard to stop.

The 1987 Constitution gives us enough power to institute immediate political and electoral reforms (such as anti-rumy and anti-turncoat legislations), and addresses the real social and economic problems that confront our people on a daily basis. Constitutional reforms, if necessary, are best done through a more transparent Constitutional Convention, after the 2007 elections, where any changes will benefit those in power today.

Carlos R. Medina Jr. is executive director of the Human Rights Center, School of Law, Ateneo de Manila University.



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# Release of top NPA suspect irks AFP

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Barias maintained that they

But Prisco, 36, formerly the

Franklin Caliguin, PDI Mindanao Bureau

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## Across the NATION

## DENR stops construction of building in Panglao

By Chito A. Fuentes  
PDI Visayas Bureau

TAGBILARAN CITY—THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources has stopped the construction of a three-story building at a resort in Panglao owned by the town mayor for violations of environmental laws.

In a cease-and-desist order, Alan Arranguet, acting DENR regional director also imposed a P50,000 fine on Mayor Doloreich

Dumaluan, the project proponent.

The order, issued on June 21 and released the next day, stemmed from a complaint lodged against Dumaluan for allegedly operating his resort without an environmental compliance certificate (ECC).

The mayor was accused of violating Presidential Decree No. 1586, known as the Philippine Environmental Impact Statement System Act, and DENR Adminis-

trative Order No. 2003-30, which provided the implementing rules of the decree.

Arranguet also suspended the processing of the ECC application filed by Dumaluan. It showed that Dumaluan filed an application on May 8, 2003 but this was returned to him on May 29, 2003 due to lack of proof of ownership and endorsements from the barangay council of

The mayor resubmitted his

ECC application twice—on Aug. 19, 2004 and Nov. 16, 2004—before it was approved on Dec. 28, 2004. The DENR, however, said the certificate could not be released until he had paid the penalty for constructing a building in his resort without an ECC.

Nearly a year later, Dumaluan sent a letter requesting reconsideration of the penalty. He claimed that he did apply for an ECC in 1998 but that the

DENR lost his paper.

On Jan. 18, the head of the DENR's Environmental Impact Assessment Division in the region, William Cufado, recommended that the penalty be reduced but should be imposed because Dumaluan started implementing the project even before filing his ECC application.

In April, Dumaluan was found to have violated Section 4 of PD 1586 for implementing his project without an ECC, but the may-

or refused to receive the DENR resolution when it was served on May 5.

On June 14, the department discovered another violation: The building has encroached on a portion of the 20-meter easement zone.

The latest cease-and-desist order noted that Dumaluan refused to receive a previous resolution dated April 21 when it was served by a DENR staff member at his office on May 5.

## Massive campaign to turn 5 regions, 2 islands 'green'

By Connie E. Fernandez  
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—PRESIDENT MACAPAGAR-Arroyo is now talking "green."

She wants the five regions and two islands to become not just a center of tourism but also a center of what she called as the "Green Philippines" or Berdeng Pilipinas.

"We must take back our forest and replenish fallen trees with new, protected forests to protect our land and our people. We must reforest that land and bring back the beauty of the Philippines we all love and want," Arroyo said in her opening statement Friday before the start of the joint Cabinet and five Regional Development Councils at the Malacañang sa Sugbo.

"We need the leadership of Central Philippines to move the rest of the country to embrace this new clean, Green Philippines," she added.

## Competitive advantage

The meeting, attended by local officials from the Visayas and Southern Luzon, was to map out strategies to enhance the competitive advantage of these areas called Central Philippines.

These five regions—Western Visayas, Eastern Visayas, Central Visayas, Southern Tagalog (B) or the island provinces, Bicol Region and Mindanao's islands of Dapitan and Siargao comprised Central Philippines, which is being positioned as the country's tourism center due to its vast coastal and marine resources.

"To their competitive advantage, we will bolster education, invest in infrastructure and encourage greater tourism investments and business process

outsourcing in Cebu and its immediate neighbors like Dumaguete (City in Negros Oriental) to name only a few," she said.

President Arroyo, however, has more plans for this part of the Philippines and she wanted the officials to take the lead.

Discussed during the meeting was the President's "Green Philippines," a massive environmental campaign that will take place within the next five years.

"I want to turn our coral reefs and beaches, the wonder of the world, into national parks and international sanctuaries for ecotourism and scientific research," she told her audience composed of Cabinet secretaries, Central Philippines' elected officials and other government officials.

## Chance to develop

"We have the chance to develop our nation right from the start: Clean, healthy, productive and beautiful," she added.

She said she wanted to tap the enthusiasm of everyone to clean up the environment. These include beautifying the villages and cities of trash, build more parks and recreation centers in urban areas, purifying the water and cleaning up industrial sites that are eyesores and unhealthy.

"As part of my Green Philippines, I want an energy efficient nation, free from reliance on costly and exhaust-spewing cars and smokestacks," Ms Arroyo said.

Part of the plan is to harness alternative sources of energy like solar, wind and geothermal and to produce clean fuels like biofuel to stop the country's reliance on foreign suppliers.



COLORFUL corals serve as the play pen of a school of jacks ("talakitok") near the Dohsan wreck off the South Islet in the Tubbataha National Marine Park. Increased user fees provided by the underwater visitors have enabled the park rangers to continue their seaborne patrols despite the high fuel costs.

PHOTO: LEO CONTRERAS

## 'Ghost' forest projects near rice terraces probed Palawan faces risk of foot-mouth disease, local officials reveal

BAGUIO CITY—THE OFFICE OF the Ombudsman is investigating reports that a P5.6-million government forestry program near a rice terraces community in Mountain Province has financed non-existent forests between 2000 and 2003.

The Ombudsman has scheduled for hearing a May 11 complaint filed by three residents of Barangay Maligcong in Bontoc town.

Jeffrey Pursen, William Todcor and Augustine Choycawen accused the administrators of the Cordillera Highland Agricultural Resource Management (Charm) project and local officials of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources of padding a report to facilitate the release of forest subsidy to contractor Maligcong Regreen-

ers Development Association Inc. (MRDAI).

Only 10 percent of the project area had been planted with trees, contrary to a 60-percent accomplishment rating the project gave itself in 2004, they claimed.

Charm is a special Asian Development Bank-financed project assigned to the Department of Agriculture. It had tasked the DENR to undertake the 360.5-hectare Maligcong reforestation project that is underwritten by the International Fund for Agricultural Development.

Charm director Cameron Odsey said he had looked into the complaints, based on a fact-finding report that unearthed anomalies that the "DENR should have already corrected."

He declined to discuss the corrective measures, but Odsey said Charm had relinquished administrative control over the project to DENR as soon as it started.

Odsey, however, was included in the Ombudsman complaint along with Nicanor Sapla, Maligcong reforestation project director, and several DENR Cordillera officials.

Todcor claimed that they took pains to cover up the anomaly even after he alerted the officials to discrepancies in the recorded MRDAI accomplishments.

In their affidavits, Todcor, Pursen and Choycawen claimed that the Charm officials even misled two ADB consultants in November 2005 into believing that the project was due for completion.

A Maligcong tree farmer's complaint reinforced Todcor's affidavit. Thomas Sadopen said MRDAI contracted him to supply them with 200,000 citrus tree saplings for the project but he discovered that only 10 percent of these saplings were planted.

Sadopen sued MRDAI for the balance of its P401,000-fee, despite the fact that he was registered as an MRDAI member without his consent, according to a fact-finding report of the Concerned Citizens of Abra for Good Governance (CCAGG).

The report concluded that the Maligcong project "was a failure," yet the official validation team gave it a 62-percent rating which allowed Charm and DENR to release the MRDAI's retention fee in 2004. Vincent Cabrera, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—THE illegal shipment of livestock and the vast unguarded coastline make Palawan vulnerable to foot-and-mouth disease (FMD).

Despite the ban imposed on the shipping of livestock from FMD-affected areas like Luzon, some traders have managed to sneak livestock into the province.

Two weeks ago, authorities in Roxas town intercepted a shipment of 14 goats from Luzon, which were unloaded in the port of San Vicente, a northern municipality, by a boat from Manila.

The goats' trader claimed that port authorities in Manila had allowed the shipment, but local authorities found it without proper papers.

## Shipment

Quarantine personnel of the Bureau of Animal Industry and the Provincial Veterinary Office destroyed the shipment in Roxas. They burned the goats to ashes after killing them with a heavy dosage of vinegar.

On June 21, another boat from Batangas tried to unload six goats in the pier of Roxas, but local authorities discovered the shipment before it could be unloaded.

Municipal agriculturist Edgar Padul ordered the captain of the MV Our Lady of Manaoag to bring back the goats, owned by a certain Perla Dadores, to their port of origin.

Upon arrival at the city port, the boat captain claimed that they threw the goats overboard.

However, a certain Boying Sabando, a concerned cattle raiser in Roxas, immediately informed the quarantine personnel in the city that four of the goats were found in Barangay Tumarong, a coastal village of Roxas, and the other two were found wandering in the town proper.

The quarantine team of the local office of the BAI and the PVO proceeded immediately to Roxas and exterminated the goats in the same manner done to the previous batch.

In an interview with local station dyPR, Sabando said the suspicious shipping of livestock to the northern coast of Palawan had been going on for some time, but local authorities, especially the municipal agriculturist of Roxas, were not vigilant.

## Accusation

Padul belied the accusation of Sabando, saying the situation was caused by the laxity of the quarantine officers in the ports of Luzon who, despite the moratorium, allowed traders to ship livestock to Palawan.

The province's main airports and ports have been enforcing strict rules to maintain Palawan as an FMD-free province, but the vast coastline, where anybody could bring in livestock by boat, is difficult to monitor due to the lack of personnel or enforcement agencies.

At present, only Mindanao, Masbate and Palawan remain FMD-free in the country. Jofelle Tesoro, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

## 4 towns near Mt. Bulusan get alarm bells

LEGASPI CITY—RESIDENTS OF AT LEAST four towns in Sorsogon can now be alerted by bells should Mount Bulusan threaten to erupt again.

They have been instructed to listen for warning from bells, locally known as "batingaw," which are made from condemned oxygen tanks.

When struck with a metal bar, the batingaw sends a loud, sharp clang echoing to distant villages.

The 20 bells were donated by Smart Communications Inc. in support of the community-based early warning system being carried out by the National Disaster Coordinating Council, particularly the Office of Civil Defense (OCD) and the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) in Sorsogon.

They were assigned to the affected towns of Juban, Casiguran, Irosin and Bulusan.

In formal turnover ceremonies on July 3 at the Gallano National High School (GNHS) in Irosin, the town's mayor, Lilia Gozales, expressed gratitude over the "invaluable" support being extended by various government and private entities to help the locality carry out its disaster-preparedness efforts more effectively.

Earlier, an earthquake drill was conducted



EMPTY oxygen tanks are transformed into early warning devices or "batingaw" for villages threatened by volcanic eruption in Sorsogon. NINO JESUS COMBAYO/SOUTHERN LUZON BUREAU

by more than 3,000 students of the GNHS, together with their teachers and parents and personnel from concerned government line agencies at the school grounds.

Smart public affairs group head Ramon Isberto said that "from what we learned from our past experience in providing emergency communication assistance, we have now

come to support community disaster preparedness efforts in hazard-prone areas."

The telecommunications firm has also donated radio equipment and distributed information leaflets on the community-based warning system in the municipalities of Real, Infanta and General Nakor in Quezon under the Reine project of the Phivolcs.

The three towns were battered by a series of floods and landslides in late November and December 2004 that left hundreds of people dead and millions of pesos worth of property destroyed.

OCD regional director Arnel Capili said the use of condemned oxygen tanks as bells was proven to be effective in Quezon in warning residents of floods and other calamities, even in the absence of electricity.

Reader volcanologist Ed Laguarda of the Langdon Hill Observatory here said Alex Level 2 remained hoisted over Bulusan. The volcano has a total of nine episodes of ash explosion since March 21.

The latest occurred on June 20 when a massive column of ash spewed about 2 km into the sky from the crater, sending residents of surrounding areas fleeing for cover.

Edgar Alejo, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau



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Plant (landlocked)  
Min. Bid Price: P 3,061,000

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Malibol Malanda, Pandi  
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Min. Bid Price: P 672,000

**BUL-L-23** House & Lot  
LA 188sqm, FA 192sqm  
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2-storey residential house  
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LA 666sqm, FA 251sqm  
Bo. Jucod, Maycauayan  
2-storey residential house  
Min. Bid Price: P 1,284,000

**BUL-L-25** House & Lot  
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Jaena Subd. Bgy. Salaysay  
Maycauayan, 2-storey residential house  
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**BUL-L-26** 1-Storey House & Lot  
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Calawitan, San Idefonso  
1-storey residential house  
Min. Bid Price: P 656,000

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Bo. Lambekin, San Miguel  
2 units of poultry houses, agricultural lot  
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Bagbaguin, Sta. Maria  
Warehouse/residential bldg  
Min. Bid Price: P 9,228,000

**BUL-L-29** Warehouse  
LA 10,228sqm  
Nabonil Rd., Bantug, San Miguel  
2-storey residential bldg & warehouse  
Min. Bid Price: P 8,854,000

**BUL-L-30** Warehouse  
LA 14,242sqm  
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Warehouse/piggery  
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LA 918sqm, FA 128sqm  
Brgy. Norzagaray  
Single detached residential bungalow  
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LA 754sqm, FA 88sqm  
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Single detached residential bungalow  
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LA 396sqm, FA 91sqm  
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**BUL-L-34** House & Lot  
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Split level residential house  
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LA 474sqm, FA 400sqm  
Along Gen. Alejo Ave., Parutan, Plaridel  
2-storey house  
Min. Bid Price: P 3,699,000

**BUL-L-38** Warehouse  
LA 49,114sqm  
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San Idefonso  
Warehouse bldg  
Min. Bid Price: P 36,400,000

**BUL-L-39** Warehouse  
LA 4,790sqm, FA 824sqm  
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**BUL-V-12** Vacant Lot  
LA 20,447sqm  
Bo. Matidic, Norzagaray, Bulacan  
Vacant agricultural lot (landlocked)  
Min. Bid Price: P 1,950,000

**BUL-V-13** Vacant Lot  
LA 35,812sqm  
Sta. Lucia, San Miguel, Bulacan  
Vacant agricultural lot  
Min. Bid Price: P 1,343,000

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LA 2,546sqm  
Sta. Lucia, San Miguel, Bulacan  
Vacant residential lot  
Min. Bid Price: P 382,000

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LA 3,068sqm  
Sta. Lucia, San Miguel, Bulacan  
Vacant residential lot  
Min. Bid Price: P 690,000

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LA 1,147sqm  
Lot 1 Cagayan Valley Road, Makinabang,  
Baguio, Bulacan, piggery  
Min. Bid Price: P 1,500,000

**BUL-V-17** Vacant Lot  
LA 250sqm  
Phase 1 Northfields Exec Village,  
Lungsod, Malolos, Bulacan, residential lot  
Min. Bid Price: P 740,000

## SAN FERNANDO CITY

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LA 300sqm, FA 143,25sqm  
#57 Quebiawan  
4 bedrooms, residential bungalow  
Min. Bid Price: P 906,000

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2-storey residential house  
Min. Bid Price: P 612,000

**PAM-L-5** Building  
LA 970sqm, FA 1,140sqm  
Along McArthur Highway, Dolores  
2-storey commercial building  
Min. Bid Price: P 16,000,000

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Poblacion, Masantol  
2-storey residential bldg  
Min. Bid Price: P 320,000

**PAM-V-1** Vacant Lot  
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San Rafael & Prado, Lubao  
33 agricultural vacant lots  
Min. Bid Price: P 2,641,000

**PAM-V-2** Vacant Lot  
LA 25,340sqm  
San Rafael & Prado, Lubao  
Vacant agricultural lot  
Min. Bid Price: P 1,478,000

## CABANATUAN CITY

**NE-L-2** House & Lot  
LA 390sqm, FA 36sqm  
L7 B5, Magsaysay Park, Kalikud Sur  
1-storey residential building  
Min. Bid Price: P 391,000

**NE-L-4** House & Lot  
LA 22,502sqm, FA 5,436sqm  
AGL Heights, Kalikud Sur  
254 parcel of lots (house and lot, lots  
may be sold individually)  
Min. Bid Price: P 26,682,000

**NE-L-5** House & Lot  
LA 203sqm, FA 109sqm  
#92 Avocado St., Villa Benita Subd.  
3 bedroom residential bungalow  
Min. Bid Price: P 626,000

**NE-L-8** Commercial  
LA 295sqm, FA 390sqm  
Along Sanchanggo St.  
Commercial/residential bldg  
Min. Bid Price: P 4,335,000

**NE-L-9** Warehouse  
LA 5,751sqm, FA 5,328sqm  
Along Maharlika Highway, Bo. Bernardo  
Warehouse  
Min. Bid Price: P 32,443,500

**NE-V-1** Vacant Lot  
LA 370sqm  
Kalikud Sur  
Vacant residential lot  
Min. Bid Price: P 97,000

**NE-V-2** Vacant Lot  
LA 375sqm  
Kalikud Sur  
Vacant residential lot  
Min. Bid Price: P 98,000

**NE-V-3** Vacant Lot  
LA 371sqm  
Kalikud Sur  
Vacant residential lot  
Min. Bid Price: P 87,000

**NE-V-4** Vacant Lot  
LA 339sqm  
Bantug Norte  
Vacant residential lot  
Min. Bid Price: P 82,000

**NE-V-5** Vacant Lot  
LA 219sqm  
Bantug  
Vacant residential lot  
Min. Bid Price: P 246,000

**NE-V-6** Vacant Lot  
LA 380sqm  
L2 B5, Magsaysay Park, Kalikud Sur  
Residential/commercial vacant lot  
Min. Bid Price: P 294,000

**NE-V-7** Vacant Lot  
LA 390sqm  
L8 B5, Magsaysay Park, Kalikud Sur  
Residential/commercial vacant lot  
Min. Bid Price: P 294,000

**NE-V-8** Vacant Lot  
LA 390sqm  
L5 B5, Magsaysay Park, Kalikud Sur  
Residential/commercial vacant lot  
Min. Bid Price: P 294,000

**NE-V-9** Vacant Lot  
LA 390sqm  
L4 B5, Magsaysay Park, Kalikud Sur  
Residential/commercial vacant lot  
Min. Bid Price: P 294,000

**NE-V-10** Vacant Lot  
LA 230sqm  
Leo-Garcia Homesite, DS Garcia  
Vacant residential lot  
Min. Bid Price: P 451,000

**NE-V-11** Vacant Lot  
LA 900sqm  
Along Melencio St., Poblacion  
Vacant commercial lot  
Min. Bid Price: P 5,648,000

## OTHERS

**NE-L-1** Warehouse  
LA 9,536sqm  
National Highway, San Mariano  
Sta. Rosa  
2 industrial warehouse bldg  
Min. Bid Price: P 8,157,000

**NE-L-5** Warehouse  
LA 276sqm  
A. Salvador St., Poblacion, Gulumba  
Warehouse building  
Min. Bid Price: P 523,000

**NE-L-7** Apartment  
LA 960sqm, FA 472sqm  
Christiansville Subd., Aber 1st  
San Jose City  
8 door, 2-storey apartment  
Min. Bid Price: P 3,932,000

**TAR-L-1** Building  
LA 2,872sqm, FA 2,872sqm  
Ramos rd. Balite Pura, Tarlac  
1-storey residential building  
Min. Bid Price: P 475,000

**TAR-L-4** Commercial Building  
LA 1,405sqm, FA 1,405sqm  
JRT Bldg., MH Del Pilar St., cor. Hilario  
St., Tarlac City, 4 parcels of land with a  
2-storey commercial building and a 3-  
storey office building with rooftop  
Min. Bid Price: P 34,027,000

**TAR-L-5** Apartment  
LA 1,404sqm, FA 904sqm  
La Misa Homes, Calle Lucanda, San  
Sebastian, Tarlac City  
11 door 2-storey apartment  
Min. Bid Price: P 5,972,000

**TAR-V-1** Vacant Lot  
LA 240sqm  
Lot 2233-K Prov' road, San Roque, La  
Paz, Tarlac, vacant residential lot  
Min. Bid Price: P 45,000

**TAR-V-2** Vacant Lot  
LA 54,721sqm  
Bp. San Roque, La Paz, Tarlac  
3 parcels of agn lots  
Min. Bid Price: P 1,642,000

**BAT-L-2** House & Lot  
LA 718sqm, FA 327sqm  
Split level bungalow  
Min. Bid Price: P 1,441,000

**BAT-L-3** House & Lot  
LA 900sqm, FA 314sqm  
O. Villa Subd., Deang Bldg  
2-storey residential house  
Min. Bid Price: P 3,609,000

**BAT-V-1** Vacant Lot  
LA 1,039sqm  
Babero, Morong  
5 vacant residential lots  
Min. Bid Price: P 582,000

**BAT-V-2** Vacant Lot  
LA 485sqm  
Sabang  
Min. Bid Price: P 272,000

**BAT-V-3** Vacant Lot  
LA 393sqm  
Prov. Road, Nagbakayong, Morong  
Vacant residential lot  
Min. Bid Price: P 252,000

**CAG-L-1** Warehouse  
LA 500sqm, FA 325  
Gonzaga ex. Ugac Norte  
Tuguegarao City  
Improved w/ warehouse with quarters  
Min. Bid Price: P 2,060,000

**CAG-L-2** House & Lot  
LA 2,761sqm, FA 137sqm  
Lungsod, Cagayan Sur, Tuguegarao City  
Single-storey house  
Min. Bid Price: P 4,282,000

**CAG-L-3** Warehouse  
LA 1,687sqm  
Mungo, Tugao, Cagayan  
With warehouse office (3 lots)  
Min. Bid Price: P 1,856,000

**CAG-L-4** H&L Warehouse  
LA 3,049sqm, FA 1,713sqm  
Alibug, Tugao, Cagayan  
With warehouse residential house  
Min. Bid Price: P 3,829,000

**CAG-L-5** Warehouse  
LA 1,000sqm, FA 306sqm  
Majadaraog, Sokana, Cagayan  
With warehouse  
Min. Bid Price: P 240,000

**CAG-L-6** House & Lot  
LA 2,837 sqm, FA 130sqm  
Guisang, Gattaran  
2-storey residential bldg  
Min. Bid Price: P 615,000

## CAGAYAN CITY

**IS-L-6** House & Lot  
LA 1,669sqm, FA 1,206sqm  
Puzon subd., San Fermo  
W/ residential house  
Min. Bid Price: P 704,000

**IS-L-7** Warehouse  
LA 7,668sqm, FA 1,206sqm  
Minarita  
Shed type warehouse  
Min. Bid Price: P 5,626,000

**IS-L-8** Cockpit/Sports Center  
LA 35,000sqm, FA 35,000sqm  
Unimproved land  
Min. Bid Price: P 5,750,000

**IS-L-9** Poultry  
LA 7,772sqm, FA 326sqm  
Minarita  
With poultry houses  
Min. Bid Price: P 1,070,000

**IS-V-15** Vacant Lot  
LA 403sqm  
San Fermo  
Vacant residential lot  
Min. Bid Price: P 212,000

**IS-V-17** Vacant Lot  
LA 408sqm  
San Fermo  
Vacant residential lot  
Min. Bid Price: P 214,000

**IS-V-18** Vacant Lot  
LA 520sqm  
National Highway, Poblacion  
Min. Bid Price: P 1,560,000

**IS-V-19** Vacant Lot  
LA 528sqm  
National Highway, Poblacion  
Min. Bid Price: P 1,564,000

**IS-V-20** Vacant Lot  
LA 8,000sqm  
Minarita II  
Residential/agn lot  
Min. Bid Price: P 2,754,000

**IS-V-21** Vacant Lot  
LA 15,000sqm, FA 1,278sqm  
Agricultural lot with piggery  
Min. Bid Price: P 7,159,000

**IS-V-23** Vacant Lot  
LA 566sqm  
Airport Road, San Fermo  
Vacant residential lot  
Min. Bid Price: P 808,000

**IS-V-24** Vacant Lot  
LA 5,186sqm  
Minarita  
Vacant residential lots (2 lots)  
Min. Bid Price: P 1,350,000

## SANTIAGO CITY

**IS-L-10** Poultry Farm  
LA 15,794sqm  
Bakintoc, poultry farm with poultry  
houses, warehouse office  
Min. Bid Price: P 5,964,000

**IS-L-11** House & Lot  
LA 283sqm, FA 283sqm  
Quezon Ave., Victory Sur  
Improved w/ dilapidated house  
Min. Bid Price: P 679,000

**IS-V-26** Vacant Lot  
LA 180sqm  
Valley Homes, Palul  
Vacant residential lot  
Min. Bid Price: P 135,000

**IS-V-27** Vacant Lot  
LA 80sqm  
Valley Homes, Palul  
Vacant residential lot  
Min. Bid Price: P 135,000

**IS-V-28** Vacant Lot  
LA 453sqm  
Palul road cor. Espiritu St., Plaridel  
Vacant residential lot  
Min. Bid Price: P 374,000

**IS-V-29** Vacant Lot  
LA 434sqm  
Palul road cor. Espiritu St., Plaridel  
Vacant residential lot  
Min. Bid Price: P 358,000

**IS-V-30** Vacant Lot  
LA 445sqm  
Palul road cor. Espiritu St., Plaridel  
Vacant residential lot  
Min. Bid Price: P 367,000

**IS-V-31** Vacant Lot  
LA 412sqm  
Vacant residential lot  
Min. Bid Price: P 170,500

## OTHERS

**IS-L-1** Warehouse  
LA 2,686sqm  
P. Rizal Ave., Bugallon, Ramon  
With warehouse  
Min. Bid Price: P 1,554,000

**IS-L-2** House & Lot  
LA 1,200sqm, FA 288sqm  
Calamagui 1st, Baguio  
House & lot w/ warehouse  
Min. Bid Price: P 2,702,000

**IS-L-3** Warehouse  
LA 1,497sqm, FA 728sqm  
Concepcion St., Roxas Dist., Naguilan  
Residential lot with house & warehouse  
(3 TCFS)  
Min. Bid Price: P 3,000,000

**IS-L-4** H&L Warehouse  
LA 2,006sqm, FA 595sqm  
Centro Cagayan  
Two adjacent lots improved by a  
residential bldg and a warehouse  
Min. Bid Price: P 2,240,000

**IS-L-5** House & Lot  
LA 1,928sqm, FA 186sqm  
(encroached by NIA) Ipi, Echague  
W/ split type building  
Min. Bid Price: P 901,000

**IS-L-12** Warehouse  
LA 1,505sqm  
Bo. Dipatuan, Nagipunan, Quirino  
1-storey warehouse  
Min. Bid Price: P 886,000

**IS-L-13** H&L Warehouse  
LA 374sqm, FA 351sqm  
District 1, San Manuel  
2-storey residential w/ warehouse  
Min. Bid Price: P 1,050,000

**IS-V-1** Vacant Lot  
LA 24,981sqm  
Bgy. Rd., Arribal, Echague  
Agn lot with improvements (no value)  
Min. Bid Price: P 200,000

**IS-V-2** Vacant Lot  
LA 584sqm  
Mun. Rd., Near Luna St. Poblacion,  
Roxas  
Vacant residential lot  
Min. Bid Price: P 315,000

**IS-V-3** Vacant Lot  
LA 2,350sqm  
Dagig, Aurora  
4 vacant residential lots  
Min. Bid Price: P 804,000

**IS-V-4** Vacant Lot  
LA 640sqm  
Bo. Sta. Rita, Bagong Linao, Aurora  
Vacant residential lots  
Min. Bid Price: P 369,000

**IS-V-5** Vacant Lot  
LA (interior lot) 53,519sqm  
Caliao, Alcala  
Improved not land  
Min. Bid Price: P 650,000

**IS-V-7** Vacant Lot  
LA 1,198sqm  
Quirino St., Alcala  
Vacant residential lot  
Min. Bid Price: P 430,000

**IS-V-8** Vacant Lot  
LA 968sqm  
Min. Bid Price: P 350,000

**IS-V-10** Vacant Lot  
LA 480sqm  
Bagong Linao, Aurora  
Vacant residential lot  
Min. Bid Price: P 288,000

**IS-V-11** Vacant Lot  
LA 294sqm  
Tuguegarao, Echague  
Vacant residential lot  
Min. Bid Price: P 96,000

**IS-V-12** Vacant Lot  
LA 2,006sqm  
Bantug, Roxas  
Vacant residential lot  
Min. Bid Price: P 1,700,000

**IS-V-13** Vacant Lot  
LA 1,900sqm  
National Highway, Bantug, Roxas  
Vacant residential lot  
Min. Bid Price: P 1,890,000

**IS-V-14** Vacant Lot  
LA 800sqm  
Bantug, Roxas  
vacant residential lot (3 lots)  
Min. Bid Price: P 500,000

**PARK-AV-1** Vacant Lot  
LA 446sqm  
Lot 7 Block 13 Parkridge Estates  
Residential vacant lot  
Min. Bid Price: P 602,100

**PARK-AV-2** Vacant Lot  
LA 453sqm  
Lot 3 Block 13 Parkridge Estates  
Residential vacant lot  
Min. Bid Price: P 665,550

**PARK-AV-3** Vacant Lot  
LA 365sqm  
Lot 4 Block 13 Parkridge Estates  
Residential vacant lot  
Min. Bid Price: P 547,500

**PARK-AV-4** Vacant Lot  
LA 475sqm  
Lot 5 Block 13 Parkridge Estates  
Residential vacant lot  
Min. Bid Price: P 641,250

**PARK-AV-5** Vacant Lot  
LA 404sqm  
Lot 6 Block 13 Parkridge Estates  
Residential vacant lot  
Min. Bid Price: P 606,000

**PARK-AV-6** Vacant Lot  
LA 388sqm  
Lot 6 Block 13 Parkridge Estates  
Residential vacant lot  
Min. Bid Price: P 598,500

**PARK-AV-7** Vacant Lot  
LA 476sqm  
Lot 9 Block 13 Parkridge Estates  
Residential vacant lot  
Min. Bid Price: P 642,600

**PARK-AV-8** Vacant Lot  
LA 407sqm  
Lot 11 Block 13 Parkridge Estates  
Residential vacant lot  
Min. Bid Price: P 610,500

**PARK-AV-9** Vacant Lot  
LA 413sqm  
Lot 12 Block 13 Parkridge Estates  
Residential vacant lot  
Min. Bid Price: P 618,500

**PARK-AV-10** Vacant Lot  
LA 42 sqm  
Lot 13 Block 13 Parkridge Estates  
Residential vacant lot  
Min. Bid Price: P 588,300

**PARK-AV-11** Vacant Lot  
LA 414sqm  
Lot 14 Block 13 Parkridge Estates  
Residential vacant lot  
Min. Bid Price: P 621,000

**PARK-AV-12** Vacant Lot  
LA 419sqm  
Lot 15 Block 13 Parkridge Estates  
Residential vacant lot  
Min. Bid Price: P 585,850

**PARK-AV-13** Vacant Lot  
LA 414 sqm  
Lot 16 Block 13 Parkridge Estates  
Residential vacant lot  
Min. Bid Price: P 621,750

**PARK-AV-14** Vacant Lot  
LA 423sqm  
Lot 17 Block 13 Parkridge Estates  
Residential vacant lot  
Min. Bid Price: P 619,000

**PARK-AV-15** Vacant Lot  
LA 406sqm  
Lot 18 Block 13 Parkridge Estates  
Residential vacant lot  
Min. Bid Price: P 609,000

**PARK-AV-16** Vacant Lot  
LA 401sqm  
Lot 19 Block 13 Parkridge Estates  
Residential vacant lot  
Min. Bid Price: P 601,500

**PARK-AV-17** Vacant Lot  
LA 425sqm  
Lot 20 Block 13 Parkridge Estates  
Residential vacant lot  
Min. Bid Price: P 637,500

**PARK-AV-18** Vacant Lot  
LA 409sqm  
Lot 21 Block 13 Parkridge Estates  
Residential vacant lot  
Min. Bid Price: P 613,500

**PARK-AV-19** Vacant Lot  
LA 465sqm  
Lot 22 Block 13 Parkridge Estates  
Residential vacant lot  
Min. Bid Price: P 697,500

## Across the NATION

# Camp Aquino's 'illegal' settlers face eviction raps

**CITY OF SAN FERNANDO**—STARTING today, the military is filing eviction cases against 646 alleged illegal settlers in the reservation areas of Camp Aquino in Tarlac City, an official of the military's Northern Luzon Command (Nolcom) said on Sunday.

Nolcom chief of staff Col. Cesar Yano said at least 100 others are going to be spared from litigation as they have begun negotiations with Nolcom on their plans to leave or be accommodated in the command's housing project for soldiers.

Yano said Nolcom was taking legal action after the occupants ignored the July 5 deadline to vacate Zones A, B, C, Tarlac Veterans Village and Yabutan.

Nolcom reports said all 746 informal settlers there are comprised of the families of at least 286 retired soldiers, 220 active troops and 240 civilians.

Judge Arsenio Adnaro of the Tarlac City Regional Trial Court denied last month the petition of the settlers to issue a temporary restraining order

against the eviction.

The judge ruled that the lots were not among those included in the areas segregated for off-base housing through a memorandum issued by then President Joseph Estrada.

Only Lots 7609, 7711 and 7611-A were specified for off-base housing. Proclamation No. 331 dated June 2000 and Proclamation No. 563 dated March 2004 showed.

An effort by Eduardo Daet and other settlers to remain at the sites was also turned down by a Quezon City court last month.

It dismissed their petition asking the Armed Forces of the Philippines to comply with the Jan. 21, 2000 memorandum of the Office of the President directing the segregation of areas for off-base housing.

Yano said the court turned down the petition because it was filed six years after the memorandum was issued.

"No basis was also laid whether the

presidential directive issued by then President Joseph Estrada in 2000 had been adopted by his successor, President Macapagal-Arroyo, at present," Yano said, citing the court order.

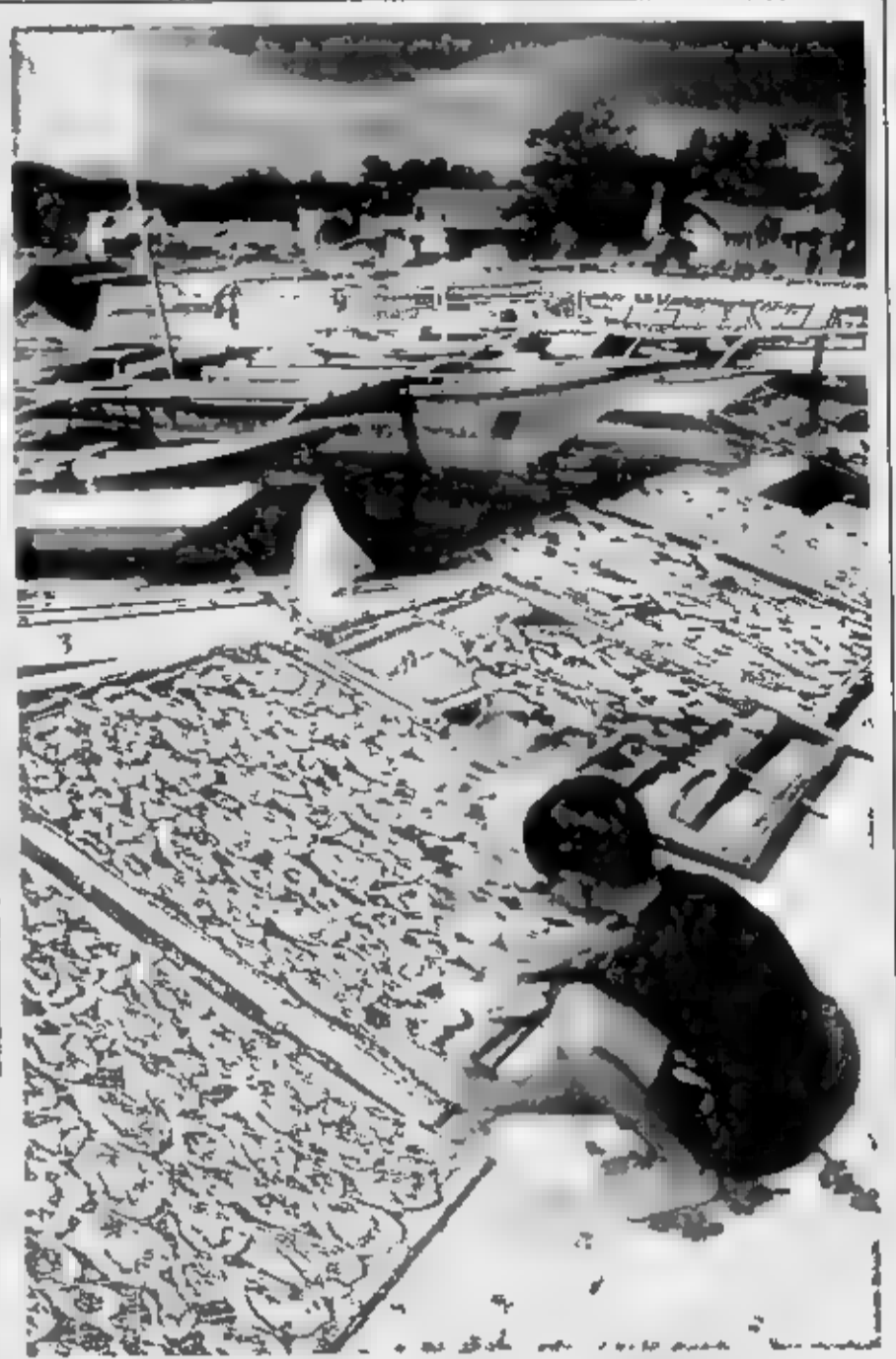
The petition was also dismissed because the petitioners did not exhaust administrative remedies with the AFP.

One of the settlers, a civilian who contacted the Inquirer, reported fear. "The Army has been harassing us to leave the areas. They watch our movements or stake out in front of our homes," the source said.

Yano denied these were being done against those who had insisted on staying or had taken the issue to the courts.

"That's not true. If we believe we will succeed through that means, we will not waste time going through the legal process," he said.

Many of the settlers have claimed to be residents of the areas for more than 40 years. **Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk**



**REAL LIFE PLAY THINGS**

This boy checks the fish he is drying, to help his family cope in the coastal town of Magallanes, Sorsogon.

## Taiwanese missing; 6 others rescued

**CALAMBA CITY**—A TAIWANESE went missing while five of his companions, including two youngsters, and a boat operator were rescued after the motorboat they were riding capsized off the waters of Taal Lake in Talisay, Batangas on Saturday.

Chief Supt. Prospero Noble, Calabarzon police director, identified the missing tourist as Pei-Chun Chang, alias Warren Chang, 42, a businessman from Taipei.

Noble said Talisay police chief Supt. Felix Sarsoso launched the search-and-rescue operation.

Rescued were boat operator Leonil Otoro, 20, and tourists Min-Chuan

Chan, 44, Yu-Hsia Huang, 39; Chia-Hao Yeh, 9; Yen-Peng Chan, 5; and Shu-Mei Yeh, 42.

Sarsoso said the group left the Taal Greenlake Resort in Talisay at around 9 a.m. together with 12 other Taiwanese to trek the Taal Lake crater.

He said while the group was halfway back from the volcano island at around 11:30 a.m., a huge wave caused by strong winds and torrential rains swept the left side of the boat, causing it to overturn.

"Fortunately, Otoro was able to contact the other boat operators before their boat capsized. Fishermen in

the area rescued the victims," Sarsoso told the Inquirer in a mobile phone interview.

Sarsoso said they had put the boat operator under investigation to see if he violated any regulations and procedures regarding the safety of the tourists hiring their services.

The Taiwanese tourists were billeted at the Westin Philippine Plaza Hotel in Manila and visited Taal through a package tour organized by the Chuan Jen Travel and Tours.

The resort where the victims took off is owned by Talisay Vice Mayor Luis Malabanan. **Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau**

## Firms offer P10-P12 wage hike to W. Visayas workers 4 soldiers, 2 rebels killed in encounter

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr. and Carla P. Gomez  
PDI Visayas Bureau

**ILOILO CITY**—CITING HIGH TAXES and operational costs, employers are offering a P10-P12 increase in daily minimum wage to workers in Iloilo, Guimaras and Negros Occidental, much lower than organized labor's demand of P75-P125.

A bigger raise would cripple businesses in the region, representatives of business groups told public hearings conducted by the Regional Tripartite Wage and Productivity Board (RTWPB) here on Thursday and in Bacolod City on Wednesday.

The Confederation of Sugar Producers Associations-Negros Panay chapter will agree to just a P10 increase in cost of living allowance, while the National Federation of Sugarcane Producers proposes that, instead of adjusting wages, the government's Social Amelioration Program should be strengthened to provide a wider range of benefits and more intensive and high-impact programs and services to farm workers and

their dependents.

Roberto Montelibano, president of the Metro Bacolod Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said members of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry across the Visayas had agreed to support a wage increase based on an inflation rate of 6.3 percent.

Thus, if workers are receiving about P200 a day, the employers will support a wage increase of P12.50, he said.

The left wing Kapisang Mayo Uno is pushing for congressional approval of a P125 increase in daily minimum wage for workers in the private sector and a P3,000 salary increase for government employees. Its members boycotted the public hearings and called for the scrapping of the regional wage boards.

"The wage boards have been inutile in addressing the interest of workers," said Wenerredo Dublezo, KMW spokesperson in Panay.

Labor groups affiliated with the moderate Trade Union Congress of the Philippines are seeking a P75 increase in daily minimum wage.

In a position paper, labor representatives Wenne Sancho and Hermene Braza said the demand was justified based on the needs of workers in Western Visayas.

Minimum wage in the region is P205 per day, but Sancho and Braza said this was "not enough to provide even a poor man's daily meal." Poverty threshold for a family of six in the region this month is pegged at P225.14 per day, they said.

They said employers were capable of granting a P45-P75 increase pointing out that the RTWPB in Western Visayas had approved the third lowest minimum wage to workers in the private sector although the region was richer than others which had granted higher amounts.

"Many businesses are just surviving and struggling to keep afloat," Maria Lea Lara executive director of the Iloilo Business Club Inc. told the Inquirer.

Lara said the sharp increase in real property taxes, coupled with the 12 percent expanded value added tax and increases in fuel, transportation and power costs, had driven production costs up.

"If we give an increase more than this amount, businesses will fold up," she said.

The position is shared by the Iloilo Multi-Sectoral Business Organization Inc. composed of nine organizations with more than 500 members, the Iloilo chapter of the Philippine Retailers Association, which groups around 60 supermarket and grocery owners and operators in Iloilo, and the Chamber of Commerce Iloilo Inc.

Arnaldo Borres, secretary of the Panay Fishing Boat Association, said the increase in taxes had affected both employers and workers. "We are practically being killed by taxes," he said during the hearing.

The labor representatives lamented that the 13 wage orders that the regional board issued since it was constituted in 1989 provided for increases ranging from only P12 to P16, which they called "cheap solutions and bread crumbs."

Labor regional director Carlos Borres said the board would try to come out with a wage order this month after the hearings in Capiz and Aklan.

**CAMP MELCHOR DELA CRUZ**, Iloilo—Four Army soldiers and two New Peoples Army rebels were

killed while three other soldiers were wounded in a July 7 encounter in Besao, Mountain Province, belated military reports said on Sunday.

Lt. Col. Leopoldo Galon Jr., spokesperson of the Army's 5th Infantry Division, did not identify the slain soldiers, saying they had yet to inform the victims' relatives. He did not also identify the slain rebels.

Galon said soldiers belonging to the Army's 54th Infantry Battalion encountered at least 50 NPA rebels while they were on patrol in Barangay Tambunan in Besao. He said the gun battle lasted 30 minutes.

Galon said heavy rains and poor visibility in Mountain Province on Saturday prevented soldiers from immediately retrieving the bodies of the slain soldiers.

In Abila, Galon said an NPA rebel, identified as Ka Karina, was killed in an encounter in Salapadan town on the same day.

He said soldiers recovered two ArmaLite rifles, handhead radio and anti-government documents from the rebels.

Last month, President Macapagal-Arroyo imposed a two-year

deadline to crush the communist insurgency in the country. She ordered Budget Secretary Ronda Andaya Jr. to release P1 billion to the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Philippine National Police to fund their operation against the NPA.

The July 7 encounter in Mountain Province and Abra came week after two encounters between government soldiers and NPA rebels broke out in Kaunga and Abra.

A statement from the NPA Leyo Cawilan Command in Kaunga said a soldier of the Army 21st B was killed while two others were wounded on June 29 during a firefight with rebels the boundary of Lubuagan and Tanudan towns in Kalanga.

But Galon said their reports indicated that no soldier was killed in that clash. He said a soldier identified only as Corporal Baling, was wounded in that incident.

Tipon Guayab, spokesperson of the Lejo Cawilan Command, said they attacked the soldiers to oppose the military's operations in the boundaries of Tabuk, Lubuagan, Tanudan towns. **Villamor Viscaya Jr. and Desiree Calusa, PDI North Luzon Bureau**

## Enforcement of child protection laws pushed

**LINGAYEN, PANGASINAN**—DESPITE the 20 national laws safeguarding the children in the country and the "excellent response" of government officials to children issues, the work to protect them is nowhere near done according to Unicef Representative Nicholas Alipui.

During the North Luzon legislative summit for children, Alipui also acknowledged that the Filipino society is nurturing and caring and concerned about the welfare of the children.

But despite the nurturing environment and the laws protecting children, "an increasing number of children are falling through the cracks because of the deepening poverty and widening deprivation and disparities," Alipui said.

"Some children in certain disadvantaged communities are not having the same development experiences like the other children in other countries. These are the children who are not able to go through quality elementary education and who live in communities which are not able to send them through early child care programs," he said.

The country has 20 national laws on the rights of the children but the implementation of these laws still has to "find resonance and concrete application at the



THESE children are required to work two hours every working day to earn for their education and other personal needs.

**PHILIPINE DAILY INQUIRER**

local levels" through the local codes on children, he said. Executive Director Ana Largo of the Council for the Welfare of Children said the country has to work on the implementation of the national children laws. "We are still struggling with some laws like on breastfeeding," she said.

The three-day summit, which ended on Thursday, aimed to come up with a local code on children in Northern Luzon.

But Alipui said the local governments' response to children can be classified as excellent. "I have no doubt in my mind that the political will is there. I never met any official who struck me as insensitive to the [plight of] children. It's just a question of political choices, of prioritizing affirmative actions to target that segment of community lagging behind," he said.

Vice Gov. Oscar Lambino said Pangasinan is crafting a child-

ren's code which "is adaptable to our particular situation."

Alipui said 1.7 million babies are added to the population every year. "To provide for nearly two million [children] is almost like running in a conveyor belt moving in a different direction. The sheer demand on basic social services is enormous," he said.

He added, "We need to redouble our efforts and expand the services in terms of food interventions and training of human resources and infrastructure to meet the increasing demand placed on the system."

He said early child care and development and preschool have been set by law but only one of three children is able to go through preschool.

But the problem does not end there. Another issue that the local legislature must tackle is the decline in the quality of elementary education, Alipui said.

"The ability to go to school and stay the course and excel in math, science, Filipino and English is declining over the years. We have seen classrooms with hundreds of students and very little learning [is] taking place. It is clear that children who are poorer have inferior quality education," he said.

**Yoranda Sotelo-Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau**

## THE DAILY GOSPEL

Monday, July 10, 2006  
14th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Hos 2:16, 17, 18, 21-22  
Gospel: Matthew 9:18-26

While Jesus was speaking to them, an official of the synagogue came up to him, bowed before him and said, "My daughter has just died, but come and place your hands on her, and she will live." Jesus stood up and followed him with his disciples.

Then a woman who had suffered from a severe bleeding for twelve years came up from behind and touched the edge of his cloak. For she thought, "If I only touch his cloak, I will be healed." Jesus turned, saw her and said, "Courage, my daughter, your faith has saved you." And from that moment the woman was cured.

When Jesus arrived at the official's house and saw the flute players and the excited crowd, he said, "Get out of here. The girl is not dead. She is only sleeping." And they laughed at him. But once the crowd had been turned away, Jesus went in and took the girl by the hand, and she stood up. The news of this spread through the whole area.

**Commentary**  
Hosea is the prophet of return, of being lured back into the arms of God though we are wanderers and harlots, intent on our own ways, ways we want. God's word in Hosea is sad, longing, even wistful of what was when they were close in the desert, and hopes for intimacy with his people again. God longs for our faithfulness and justice so that he can give us love and mercy in return. And Jesus wants to give even more, an intimacy that frees from death, life ever more abundant, healing from our disease and social illnesses (how we feed on death and the suffering of others). God so longs for us to be near him.

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# Withdrawal of support depends on AFP unity

From page A1

bolism, the civilian component of the junta to disguise its military muscle, the stage from which the rising would start (a multisectoral opposition mass meeting on Ayala Avenue, Makati City) and a political program of a transition provisional government.

But on the planned D-Day, Feb. 24, things suddenly went wrong. The events did not cooperate with the script. The details suddenly went haywire and did not fall into their proper places in the scheme.

Instead of the video hugging the attention of the nation, the target of all these preparations trumped the grand conspiracy. The President caught the plotters wrong-footed by proclaiming a state of national emergency (Presidential Proclamation No. 1017), seizing the initiative.

## Tragicomic opera

In one single stroke, the conspiracy collapsed and instantly became a tragicomic opera. To cap this irony, the video was broadcast at the wrong time—five months after the plot's zero hour.

The fallout from the showing of the video by ABS-CBN, a media network seen to be hostile of Ms Arroyo, did not serve to validate the administration's claim that the footage justified the President's emergency proclamation. The Supreme Court has already

struck down key provisions of PP 1017 as illegal and unwarranted.

The release of the footage neither appears to help Ms Arroyo decisively in thwarting the new impeachment complaints laid against her in Congress nor reverse the slide of her popularity ratings.

On the other hand, the footage has wrought havoc on conspiratorial groups, named in the video as key figures in the aborted Feb. 24 coup attempt.

The fallout has sent the alleged conspirators in disarray and scampering for cover and trying to save their own necks from retribution by the regime.

In the aftermath of the disclosure, people like Roy Sefieres, and even General Lim, have come forward to reveal new facts on the conspiracy and new names that had not been previously revealed to the public or that presumably had not been known by the administration.

## Flurry of denials

A flurry of denials has come from those named by Sefieres as involved in the plot to withdraw support from Ms Arroyo. Among them were former Executive Secretary Oscar Orbes, businessman Hugo Zobel, former Defense Secretary Renato de Villa, ABC-5 chair Antonio Cojuangco, and construction magnate EF Cruz.

The justice department has issued subpoenas to these alleged

plotters so they may face investigation into their alleged involvement after they had been betrayed by Sefieres, who has admitted in an interview with the Inquirer he had, as well as those he ratted on, encouraged Lim to withdraw support from Ms Arroyo.

The air is now filled with recriminations over his fellow conspirators' attempt to wash their hands after the collapse of the conspiracy of Feb. 24. Even General Lim has suggested that he had been used by civil society groups which had waged a campaign to oust Ms Arroyo since June 2005.

The disclosure of the video and the reactions that followed have revealed a more extensive web of the conspiracy than had been thought.

## Who's gaining?

This assessment of the effects of the fallout from the video goes beyond determining who's gaining from the backlash. It highlights a few lessons that might be drawn by the public on the revelations of the footage. I summarize them:

- The collapse of the Feb. 24 coup attempt suffered the fate of a chain of attempts to topple the Arroyo administration starting on May 1, 2001, when supporters of deposed President Joseph Estrada

stormed Malacanan.

The attempts following it—the Oakwood Mutiny, the disclosure of the Garcillano tapes in June 2004, the July 2005 Cabinet defections, the attempt to incite "people power" after the dismissal of the impeachment complaint in the House in September last year—were based on two wrong assumptions and gross miscalculations: Ms Arroyo was a pushover and their moves would get wide public support.

General Lim et al. and the Feb. 24 conspirators never learned these lessons. They didn't know their enemy. Military men have been drilled these basic lessons as the key to military success.

The conspirators underestimated Ms Arroyo's capacity to react, seize the initiative, and use the vast powers of the presidency. The plotters overestimated their assets, many of them hypothetical and unreliable, such as civilian components.

## Plans too loose

- As a result of these romantic, false assumptions, the plotters

made plans that were too loose, that involved too many players with different and contradictory objectives, and failed to take into account unforeseen developments.

• As in the February 1986 mutiny that sparked Edsa I, and in Edsa II, the success of the Feb. 24 conspiracy rested on the pinhead of military withdrawal of support from the existing regime.

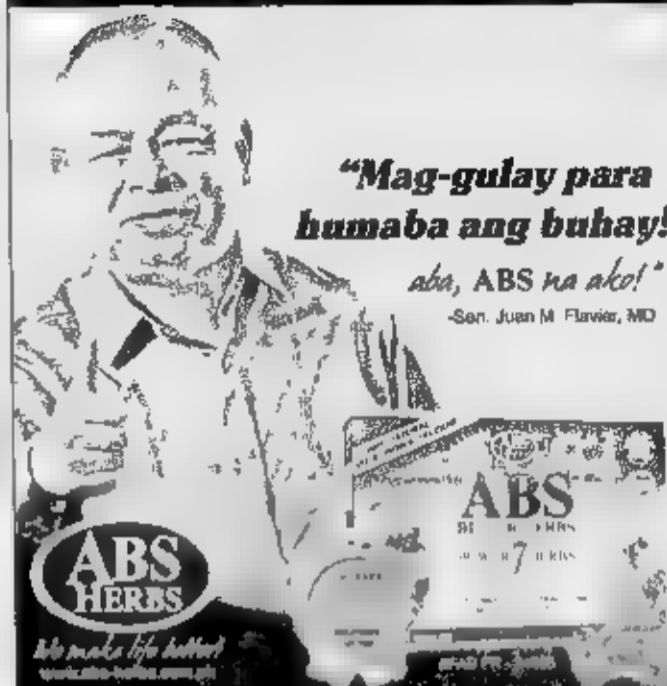
At the best of times, withdrawal is extremely uncertain, it de-

pends on the state of military unity at a time of political crisis. Whose side the chain of command would take was uncertain up to Feb. 23.

What the video tells us is that civil society groups are mounted astride a knife's edge when they entrust the success of their political movement for change on the man on horseback.

(What went wrong on Feb. 24 will be examined in my next article.)

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**CARMEN BULK WATER SUPPLY PROJECT**

**INVITATION TO SUBMIT EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST AND CALL FOR REGISTRATION**

The Metropolitan Cebu Water District ("MCWD") is seeking potential proposers/bidders/challengers to express their interest in the prospective solicitation of comparative or competitive proposals ("Swiss Challenge") to finance, design, construct, own, operate and maintain new water abstraction, treatment and transmission facilities intended to extract and treat raw water primarily from the Luyang-Carandang River located in the Municipality of Carmen, Cebu Province, and deliver up to 45,000 cubic meters per day of bulk potable water through a transmission pipeline to the MCWD distribution system under a suitable public-private partnership agreement for a fixed concession period ("Project"). The Project is being developed and procured following the unadvised proposal process prescribed under Republic Act No. 8957, as amended, and its Implementing Rules and Regulations ("BOT Law"). The original proponent of the Project, whose unadvised proposal will be the subject of the Swiss Challenge, is the Ayala Corp. Alcantara Water Co./Sistemad, Inc. Consortium.

MCWD, through the BOT Center of the Department of Trade and Industry, has engaged the International Finance Corporation ("IFC") as its transaction advisor for this Project.

Pursuant to Section 4 of the BOT Law and Section 2.5 of its Implementing Rules and Regulations, all interested parties are invited to register their interest and register as possible proposers/bidders/challengers by submitting to MCWD (copy furnished IFC), at the addressee indicated below, their letter of intent, and company profile with the following information:

1. Name of proposer
2. Business address(es), no./fax no./email address
3. Number of years in operation
4. Organizational and ownership structure
5. Field of specialization
6. Key personnel (corporate officers and key staff members)
7. List of completed projects (brief description, types of services, location, project cost/contract amount, implementation period, client) and
8. Latest audited financial statements (income statement and balance sheet)

All expressions of interest must be submitted on or before July 20, 2006. duly registered proposers will be entitled to receive project updates from MCWD.

**THIS INVITATION OR CALL FOR REGISTRATION IS NOT THE START OF THE FORMAL SOLICITATION OF COMPARATIVE/COMPETITIVE PROPOSALS.** The submission of expressions of interest is not a bidding requirement and will not qualify or disqualify potential bidders from participating in the Swiss Challenge.

More information regarding this invitation and call for registration may be requested from:

Sanjay Ghewal Advisory Services International Finance Corporation 11th Ayala Tower One Ayala Avenue, Makati City Phone: (602) 2509-6139 Hong Kong (602) 848-7333 Manila	ARMANDO H. PAREDES General Manager Metropolitan Cebu Water District Megafines-Lapu-Lapu Streets Cebu City Proper Phone: (032) 256-0411 Email: gmo@mcwd.gov.ph
---	---

(Sgd.) NOEL R. DALEMA  
BOT-SAC Chairman

(PDI July 3, 10 & 17 2006)

Republic of the Philippines  
**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**  
Center for Health Development - Biocel  
**BIOCOL MEDICAL CENTER**  
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE  
Naga City

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E-mail Address: sbop2, bmc@yahoo.com  
Fax No. (054) 473-89-38; (054) 473-7578; (054) 811-2227  
Website: http://www.doh.gov.ph/bmcncau.htm

**Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid**

The BIOCOL MEDICAL CENTER, through General Appropriations Act of 2006 intends to apply specified goods for the following project:

1. Project: Procurement of Medical Gases - (JAES No. 2006-08)  
Approved Budget for the Contract: SEVEN MILLION THREE HUNDRED NINETY FOUR THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED TWO & 95/100 Philippine Pesos  
July 3, 2006 to August 3, 2006  
August 3, 2006 - 9:00 A.M. BMC Library  
August 15, 2006 - 9:00 A.M. BMC Library  
Two Thousand Pesos (P2,000.00)
2. Project: Procurement of Various Pharmaceuticals - (JAES No. 2006-09)  
Approved Budget for the Contract: THIRTY FIVE MILLION TWO HUNDRED EIGHTY NINE THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED NINETY & 89/100 Philippine Pesos  
July 3, 2006 to August 4, 2006  
August 4, 2006 - 9:00 A.M. BMC Library  
August 15, 2006 - 9:00 A.M. BMC Library  
Three Thousand Two Hundred Pesos (P3,200.00)

Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid Opening.

The BIOCOL MEDICAL CENTER now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the above stated projects. Delivery of Goods required as stated in the Special Conditions of the Contract for each project.

The description of an eligible bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discriminatory personnel criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRRA) of Republic Act No. 9184, (RA 9184), (hereinafter referred to as the Government Procurement Reform Act), and is restricted to registered bidders, with no least favoring person (LFP) unless or otherwise stated in the Bidding Documents, as specified in Republic Act 9184 (RA 9184). Only bids from bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section 5 of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the lowest calculated bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine his responsiveness to the technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall only be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.

Interested bidders may obtain further information from BIOCOL MEDICAL CENTER and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address specified below from 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. on 12:00 noon, 1:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M. except weekends and holidays.

A complete set of Bidding Documents for each project may be purchased by interested bidders upon the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee as specified above. The method of payment will be in the form of Cash. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective bidder or his authorized representative.

Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address, date and time stated above. All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in any of the following forms, as the amount at least equal to and not less than a percentage of the ABC in an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency:

1. Cash, certified check, cashier's check, bond (1% of ABC)
2. Bank Guarantee (1% of ABC)
3. OSIS Surety Bond (2.5% of ABC)

• Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.

• The BIOCOL MEDICAL CENTER reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, and to award the bidding process and reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

Contact Address: BIOCOL MEDICAL CENTER  
Concepcion Perpetua, Naga City  
Telephone Nos. (054) 473-7578, (054) 473-8938  
E-mail Address: sbop2, bmc@yahoo.com  
Fax No. (054) 473-8938, (054) 811-2227  
Website: http://www.doh.gov.ph/bmcncau.htm

Contact Person: ANGELITA A. ADANA, MPA  
(Sgd.) ANGELITA A. ADANA, MPA  
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## US aid to RP in 2006 highest in 15 years

WASHINGTON, D.C.—PHILIPPINE AMBASSADOR to the United States Albert del Rosario yesterday reported that the US assistance to the Philippines of \$228 million in fiscal year 2006 was the highest ever that the country had obtained in 15 years.

According to the envoy, US bilateral assistance to the Philippines from 2001 to 2006, in grants, amounted to about \$1.2 billion, increasing annually at an average of 39 percent.

Del Rosario, whose tour of duty as Chief of Mission in Washington, D.C. will end on July 8, said, "In coordination with the Department of Foreign Affairs and the Department of National Defense, the embassy has worked every year with the executive and legislative branches of the American government to raise US assistance to the Philippines from the initial levels proposed by the White House."

He added, "We believe that these annual campaigns have helped raise US grant assistance to the Philippines from a low of \$69.3 million in 2001 to \$228.7 million in 2006, or an increase of 230 percent."

"The augmentation of US assistance was made possible either through additional appropriations by the US Congress or through funds drawn by some US executive departments from their global facilities in response to Philippine requests," he explained.

Del Rosario attributed the increases in assistance to cordial relationships between the two countries.

## BSP encourages use of coins

By Doris C. Dumlaog

DO YOU KNOW THAT IF YOU TRY TO purchase an item with over P50 worth of coins the store has the right to refuse payment?

The P50 limit applies to a combination of coins offered for payment in denominations of 25 centavos, P1, P5 and P10. For people using lower denominations—say, 1, 5 or 10 centavos—the limit is only P20.

Even banks have the right to reject the coin hoard, based on the country's legal tender or the medium of exchange allowed by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas to pay for goods or services or even to settle a debt which a creditor, seller or service provider must legally accept.

But since these limits hampered the effective recirculation of coins in the country, the BSP decided to redefine legal tender and to become more tolerant of the use of coins, BSP Deputy Governor Diwa Guinigundo told reporters on Friday.

The BSP's policy-making Monetary Board had approved a new legal tender blueprint hoping to "encourage the public to use coins in day-to-day transactions," he said.

The BSP would soon issue a circular allowing the public to make payments of up to P100 in coins in denominations of P1, P5 and P10 or a combination of these. For 25-centavo coins or less, any transaction up to P100 shall be considered legal tender.

The BSP's decision is a response to the reason in allowing the higher threshold.

"The BSP is now issuing coins in higher denominations. Before, we didn't have P5 and P10. Besides, the size and weight of coins have diminished over time so it's no longer burdensome to carry coins," he said.

P50 bought less than what the same amount could fetch years ago.

The redefinition is in line with the new month-long program launched by Maa-cañang last week called "Tulong Bayra Para sa Eskuwela." The program hopes to raise funds for public elementary schools.

By turning in old and misplaced coins in specially designed "money banks."

It also hopes to raise awareness among the public and to encourage them to accept and use coins regularly to keep them circulating.

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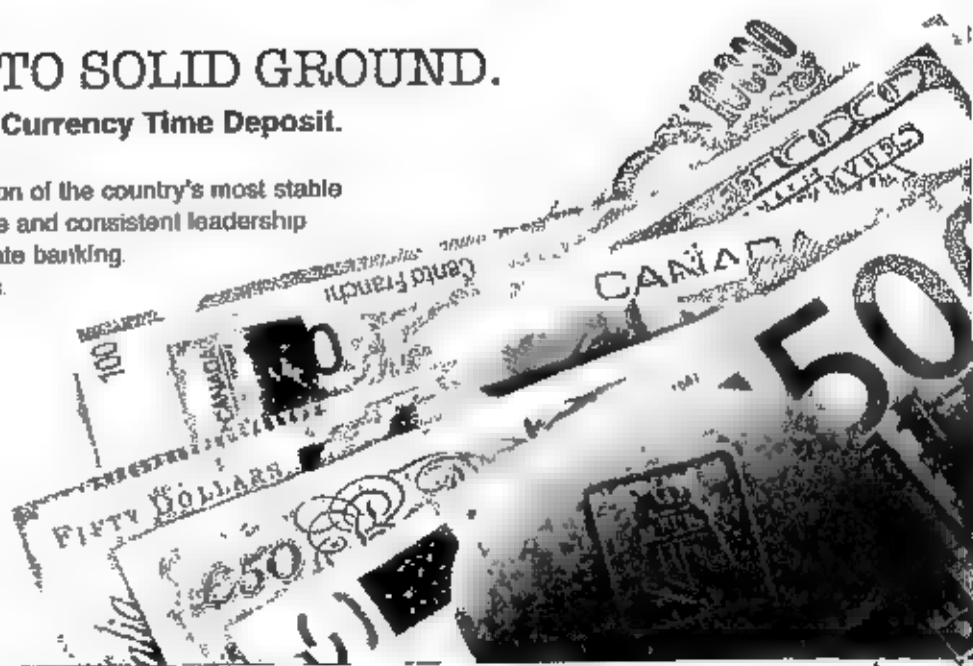
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# Safe, sound and not sorry

## NGO hopes to turn every Filipino into a lifesaver

By Terra V. Quismundo

WHAT CAN YOU DO NOWADAYS  
with P100?

The amount, equivalent to a hundred text messages, can equip you with life-saving skills, courtesy of a nongovernment organization which wants to arm as many people as it can with the basic know-how to save lives.

At most, P100 is all that one has to pay to take the basic survival course being offered by the Emergency Resource Center (ERC) Inc., which was created out of a need to teach Filipinos to be prepared for any calamity.

"What is P100 nowadays? The daily allowance of students for their cell phone load? Still, everybody is prone to accidents. And with the course, we can empower you in two hours. We can prepare you for natural emergencies, crime and terrorism, fire incidents, self-aid and first aid," said Louie Domingo, ERC vice president and operations director.

### Country of lifesavers

The nongovernmental organization (NGO) was established in 2000 by a group of individuals with a common dream of making a lifesaver out of every Filipino. For who else should be experts in surviving natural and man-made calamities but a country whose citizens endure at least 20 typhoons every year and is home to as many active volcanoes?

The ERC "supports the philosophy that the illiterate, poor and the underdeveloped need not be deprived of appropriate, sustainable, self-reliant, life-saving resources, knowledge and technology."

### Specialized training

Toward this end, it offers a wide range of lessons on multi-hazard emergencies, from courses as basic as what to do during earthquakes and fire incidents, to more specialized training such as cabin crew defense for flight attendants and tactical medicine for soldiers engaged in combat.

But for the Filipino everyman, the ERC has just the right lesson—Safety Awareness for Everyone! or SAFE!—an information-



CRISIS expert Louie Domingo

PHOTOS BY EDWIN BACASAS

packed course which it describes as an "awareness level program that promotes emergency preparedness through experiential education."

"The point is, what's your excuse now for not learning all of these? This is a perpetual need. Everybody needs to know about safety and security. There are times they (clients) can only afford P50. Then we adjust because we are an NGO and we're not so much in it for the money. As long as you are interested, we will teach you," Domingo said.

Part of the fees the NGO collects for its courses is used to enhance its knowledge and technological resources and for compensating its 30 volunteers.

"We have to understand that an NGO is somehow run like a business which also has expenses. We want to pay experts, do proper research and see the latest cutting-edge technology which we could then share through our lessons," added Domingo.

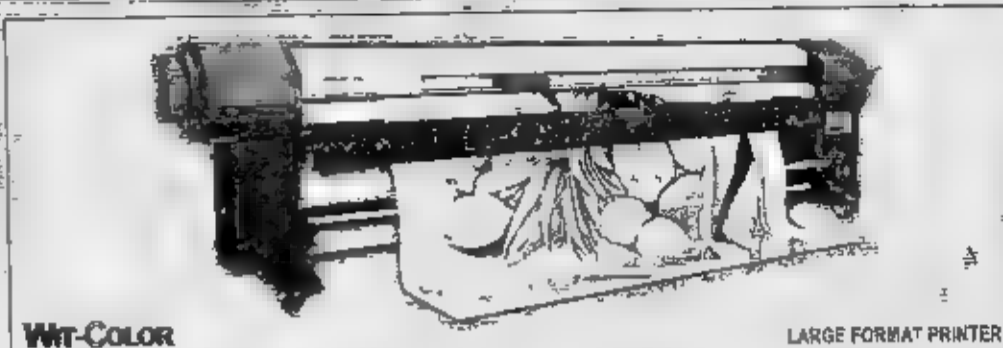
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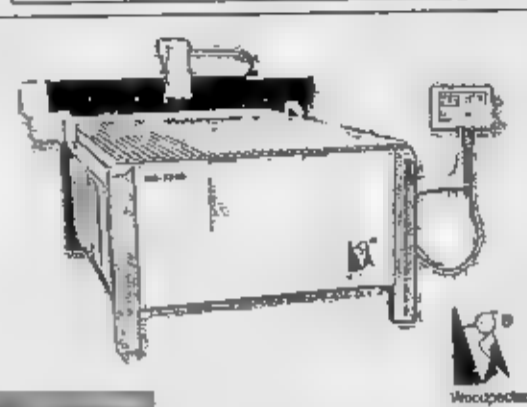
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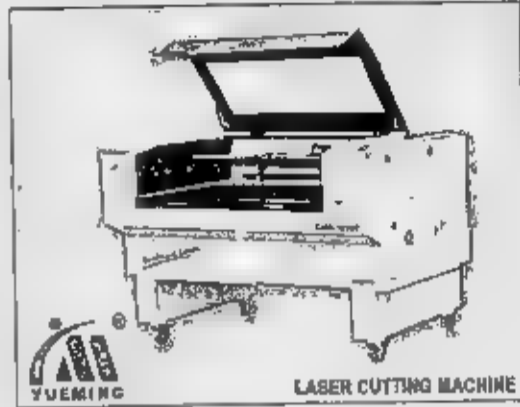


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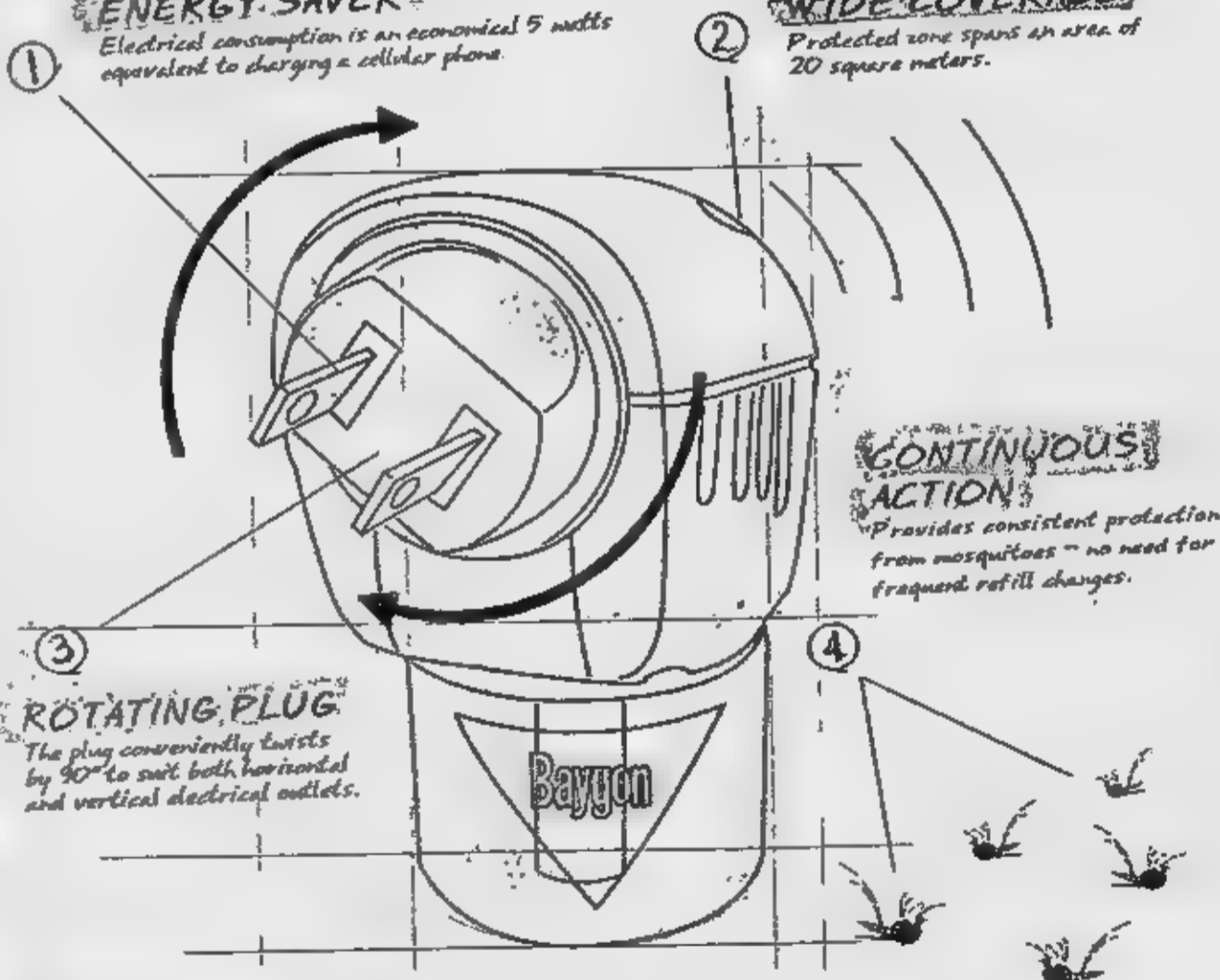
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# 100,000 leftists cry 'fraud' after Mexico poll

MEXICO CITY—MORE THAN 100,000 protesters filled a vast Mexico City square on Saturday to back a fiery left-winger in his fight to overturn a tight presidential election he says was rigged against him.

To cheers, whistles and shouts of "Fraud, fraud," Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador told the crowd the official razor-thin election victory of the conservative ruling party's Felipe Calderon last Sunday was bogus.

He said he was the legitimate winner and called for more protest marches to pile on the pressure as his legal team challenges the results before Mexico's highest election court.

"We are going to defend democracy," Lopez Obrador shouted.

"We are going to ask that they recount all the votes, vote by vote, polling station by polling station. All the ballot boxes must be opened because there is solid evidence that they took out votes to favor the candidate of the right."

The leftist campaigned on a promise to pull millions of people out of poverty with ambitious welfare programs and infrastructure projects, but his policies and crowd-pleasing rhetoric alarm business leaders and investors.

About 130,000 people came out in support

of the popular former mayor of Mexico City, filing Zocalo square with the yellow flags of his party and shouting "Obrador, Obrador."

Some held posters reading "No to the damn fraud," accused the ruling party of vote-rigging and some warned of unrest. "If there's no solution, there'll be a revolution," they chanted.

"It's an outrage what they did. It was a total robbery," said retired psychologist Rene Vega in Zocalo, one of the world's largest squares that is dominated by a giant Mexican flag.

Lopez Obrador will challenge the result in the electoral court, but Calderon is already looking presidential after a recount of vote tally sheets showed he won by less than 1 percentage point.

US President George W. Bush and Spanish Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero congratulated Lopez Obrador when they called his rival on Friday to congratulate him on his win.

Lopez Obrador said the party of Calderon and President Vicente Fox had "learned fast" the dirty tricks used by the Institutional Revolutionary Party that ruled for 71 years until Fox toppled it in 2000 in Mexico's cleanest election to date.



THOUSANDS rally for presidential candidate Andres Obrador at the Zocalo plaza in Mexico City, July 8.

## 3 Palestinian family members killed in Israel air strike



THE BODY of 6-year-old Palestinian girl Rawan Hajaj, who arrived dead at the Al-Shifa hospital in Gaza, is seen July 8.

GAZA CITY—THREE PALESTINIAN family members, including a 6-year-old girl, were killed Saturday in an air strike near Gaza City as Israel rejected a call by Hamas premier Ismail Haniya for a mutual ceasefire.

The girl, her elder brother and her mother were killed in the air raid, which according to an army spokesperson targeted a group of militants east of Gaza City.

Despite initial denials, the Israeli army later confirmed carrying out an air strike in the neighborhood of Sejayun.

"We are currently examining the exact details of the strike," an army source told AFP.

UN Secretary General Kofi Annan meanwhile demanded immediate access for UN workers and humanitarian relief supplies to the Gaza Strip, saying he was "extremely concerned about the dangerous situation in the occu-

pied Palestinian Territory."

Four more Palestinians were killed earlier as Israeli forces shifted the focus of their Gaza campaign to end militant rocket fire and free a captured soldier to the seaside strip's eastern frontier.

As Israel pushed on into Gaza, officials brushed aside Haniya's call for a "return to a situation of calm on the basis of a halt to all military operations by both sides."

"We do not hold negotiations with terrorists. They must first return the kidnapped soldier unharmed and cease their fire," an official in Prime Minister Ehud Olmert's office told AFP.

"We will decide on our next moves according to the steps taken by the Palestinian government," he said, asking not to be named.

Haniya stressed that his Hamas government was determined to solve the problem through diplo-

matic channels in a "peaceful" manner.

"It is necessary that Israel halt its military operation in the Gaza Strip and withdraw its forces," said a statement from Haniya.

"More efforts are required from all parties to resolve the current crisis in order to bring an end to the Israeli aggression and resolve the question of the Israeli soldier through serious negotiations," it added.

A Hamas spokesperson slammed Israel for brushing aside the Hamas ceasefire offer.

"The Israeli rejection is wrong," said Ghazi Hamad. "This initiative must be seized on in order to find a suitable solution."

Earlier, dozens of Israeli tanks backed by helicopter gunships and drones passed through the Karni and Nabal Oz crossings, advancing 1 km to the outskirts of Gaza City where clashes broke out.

## Seoul bucks sanctions on North Korea

SEOUL—SOUTH KOREA DOES not think proposed UN sanctions against North Korea would curb its communist neighbor's missile program or make the region any safer, a senior presidential aide said on Sunday.

After Pyongyang defied world opinion and test-fired seven missiles last week, Japan formally introduced a UN resolution that would impose sanctions on the reclusive Stalinist state, but veto-wielding members China and Russia are both strongly opposed.

"For the time being, we do not have a clear grounds or reasoning that these sanctions will work for preventing any missile proliferation, or any factors that destabilize the regional stability," Song Min-soon, national security adviser to the president, told Reuters.

Japan's revised draft, co-sponsored by the United States, Britain and France, says that no nation can procure missiles or missile-related "items, materials goods and technology" from North Korea, or transfer financial resources to the isolated Communist country's dangerous weapons programs.

Seoul could consider sanctions if it thought they would be effective but is pushing diplomacy to ease tensions, Song said after talks with Christopher Hill, the visiting top US envoy for North Korea. Reuters

## Taiwan president's wife linked to corruption scandal

TAIPEI—TAIWANESE PRESIDENT Chen Shui-bian's wife is expected to be questioned by investigators before the end of this month in connection with a high-profile corruption scandal that has embroiled his family, media reports said Sunday.

The scandal flared anew last week when Huang Pang-yen, a close friend of the president's family, said for the first time that he had received one million Taiwan dollars (US\$30,770) worth

of Sogo department store vouchers, the China Times said.

Huang told investigators he had used 200,000 dollars worth of the vouchers.

But he did not say if the remainder had been given to President Chen's wife Wu Shu-chen.

The wheelchair-bound Wu is being investigated for allegedly receiving, and then selling, five million dollars (US\$156,000) worth of Sogo vouchers in ex-

change for lobbying favors.

"The investigators may question Wu and Huang simultaneously to find out if Wu had accepted vouchers from Huang," the daily quoted an unnamed investigator as saying, adding that questioning may take place at the presidential residence this month.

"Considering Wu's poor health, the interrogation would be completed in three to four hours," the investigator said.

Chen has denied his wife has done anything wrong and pledged to quit office if she is found guilty of any offense.

Chen's troubles began in May when his son-in-law Chao Chen-ming was detained on suspicion of insider trading and taking bribes from business people. Chao is in custody pending investigation.

The president has apologized for the turmoil caused by his son-in-law but refused to step down despite

two mass protests launched by the two major opposition parties.

Chen survived an unprecedented motion in the opposition-controlled parliament in June aimed at ending his presidential term two years early.

Separately, Chen Che-nan, former deputy secretary general to the president, was indicted Friday for taking bribes and insider trading. Prosecutors are seeking a 12-year jail term.

### INQUIRER MAGAZINE

July 10, 2006

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ABC 5	News	TV Patrol	TV Patrol	TV Patrol	TV Patrol	TV Patrol	TV Patrol	TV Patrol	TV Patrol	TV Patrol
ABS-CBN 2	News	TV Patrol	TV Patrol	TV Patrol	TV Patrol	TV Patrol	TV Patrol	TV Patrol	TV Patrol	TV Patrol
ASIN	News	TV Patrol	TV Patrol	TV Patrol	TV Patrol	TV Patrol	TV Patrol	TV Patrol	TV Patrol	TV Patrol
Cartoon Network	Cartoon	Cartoon	Cartoon	Cartoon	Cartoon	Cartoon	Cartoon	Cartoon	Cartoon	Cartoon
Channel One	News	TV Patrol	TV Patrol	TV Patrol	TV Patrol	TV Patrol	TV Patrol	TV Patrol	TV Patrol	TV Patrol
Channel 5	News	TV Patrol	TV Patrol	TV Patrol	TV Patrol	TV Patrol	TV Patrol	TV Patrol	TV Patrol	TV Patrol
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Channel 30	News	TV Patrol	TV Patrol	TV Patrol	TV Patrol	TV Patrol	TV Patrol	TV Patrol	TV Patrol	TV Patrol

TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

**Editor Luverne B. Gueco**

**PROBERS** inspect the Airbus A-310 of the Russian Sibir airline that crashed in Irkutsk airport. **AP**

Prosecutors announced they had opened a criminal inquiry into the crash. **AP**

## RAMOS-HORTA NEUTER

The companies have not revealed the new drug's name or its price, though they have suggested it will cost roughly the same as Sustiva and Truvada bought separately, which is about \$1,200 a month. NYT

**SUCRAJAC**, Croatia—Two decades ago, the channels that separate the Adriatic Islands here were brimming with giant bluefin tuna, a species so plentiful that tourists used to climb ladders by the sea to watch the schools swim by. Today, these majestic predators are rarely if ever caught. The tuna population in the Mediterranean is nearing extinction, a new World Wildlife Fund report concludes, with catches down 80 percent over the past few years, even for high-tech trawlers that now comb remote corners of the sea in search of the hard-to-find fish. "This is past the alarm stage," said Simon Cripps, director of the global marine program at the World Wildlife Fund. "We are seeing a complete collapse of the tuna population. It could disappear and never come back."

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# SPORTS

E-mail: pr\_sports@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Teddyvic S. Melendres

Text us your feedback: inquirer.sports@inquirer.com or 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

## Seigle bags second best player award

AFTER FALLING SHORT OF THE SEASON MVP honors, Danny Seigle settled for the Gran Marador Brandy PBA Philippine Cup best player of the conference award instead.

San Miguel Beer's take-charge guy showed the way in the statistics and got the nod of the media, compiling 2,532 points for his second BPC title since winning the plum during his rookie year in the 1999 Governors Cup.

Seigle, who wound up second-best in scoring behind Marc Caguioa's 25.3-point production, averaged 24.7 points, 9.2 rebounds and three assists in 23 games.

Seigle's MVP bid also hit a snag early when the Beermen finished eighth overall in the team rankings during last conference's Fiesta Cup.

"I had a very disappointing first conference," said Seigle, who was sidelined by a recurring ankle injury for a couple of games in the Fiesta Cup.

Seigle tore an Achilles tendon in a tune-up game against the Qatar national team for the Busan Asian Games in 2002. For a time, Seigle was on and off the Beermen lineup as he suffered ankle injuries as an offshoot to that Achilles tear.

"I've fully recovered. Now, it's just a matter of getting back my rhythm," said Seigle, the seventh player in league history to have won the award at least twice. *June Navarro*

## Bulls bounce back

By June Navarro

GAME WEDNESDAY (Araneta Coliseum)  
6 p.m.—Awarding Ceremony  
7:10 p.m.—Purefoods vs Red Bull (Game 4 of Finals)

RED BULL FINALLY WAS A COMPLETE team last night.

The back-to-the-wall Bulls wore down the Purefoods Chunkee Giants on both ends of the court, finally breaking through in the best-of-seven series for the Gran Marador Brandy PBA Philippine Cup after an 89-79 Game 3 victory at the Araneta Coliseum.

"Unlike in Games 1 and 2, we were able to match their defensive intensity for most of the game," said Red Bull coach Yeng Guiao of Red Bull, which avoided falling into a 3-0 hole. "At least tonight, we were consistent throughout."

Celino Cruz and Lordy Tugade fired

all of Red Bull's seven three-pointers, most of them done in a fashion that riled the Giants while putting up a tough and gritty defense far different from the first two games.

Enrico Villanueva, Jundry Valenzuela and Cyrus Baguio also had their sparkling moments, tearing down the internal defense of the Giants with an assortment of shots that helped the Bulls to pull away in the third period.

"They (Bulls) were more focused today and they have a mission," said Purefoods' Ryan Gregorio. "They did something different and it paid off."

More than anything else, the Bulls simply returned the favor by giving the top defensive team in the league a dose of its own medicine.

Red Bull forced the Giants to commit 23 turnovers while efficiently putting the cuffs on Most Valuable Player candidates Kerby Raymundo and James Yap

down the stretch.

Yap missed all of his eight three-point attempts and Noy Castillo made it a total of 14 misses from beyond the arc.

"We just wanted to win a first game. This is only the start," said Guiao. "Purefoods still has the advantage but if we even up on Wednesday (Game 4), we could make the series more interesting."

The scores:

RED BULL 89—Tugade 22, Villanueva 12, Cruz 11, Valenzuela 12, Baguio 10, Buga 8, Farnal 7, Noy 4, Foraster 2, Robinson 2, Hrabak 0.

PUREFOODS 79—Yap 18, Fingels 15, Yap R. 11, Raymundo 10, Yee 8, Simon 7, Limpot 4, Castillo 4, Ariad 2, Camaso 2, Gamboa 0, Evangelista 0.

Quarter: 16-13, 34-29, 66-52, 89-79

## Ozamis eyes finals vs Tagaytay today

OZAMIZ CITY—DEFENDING CHAMPION OZAMIZ COTTA SEEKS THE FIRST finals berth tonight when it faces expansion team Batang Tagaytay in Game 2 of their best-of-three semifinal series in the 2006 Guerrero Brandy-NBC national basketball championship at the Gov. Angel Medina Sr. gym here. Mayor Reynaldo Parojinog's Ozamis cagers are favored in the 6 p.m. match following their 94-84 in Game 1. Leading MVP candidate Markon Basco is again expected to carry the load for Ozamis, together with Billy Bansil and Melfred Samplao. Tagaytay pins its hopes on ex-Ozamis players Nino Marquez and Arden Gulyab and veterans Jimboy Robillos and Rodel Mallari in their bid to stay alive in the tourney sponsored by Panasonic, Sulphur Limes, Nature's Spring, Molten, Spring Cooking Oil, Regent Foods, Firefly Lightings and Prime Channel.

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## Cramming is the name of the game

ALL THAT GLITTERS IS MANNY Pacquiao.

Sorry, but this has also resulted in a furious, if hysterical, contest out there in the national advertising scene.

The name of the game: Strike while the iron is hot.

Thus mad, mad rush to ride on the Pacquiao popularity has produced contrasting results, with some pitifully bordering on the hilarious and the absurd.

Hard to miss was the full-page McDonald's newspaper ad, piping hot like freshly baked chicken breast, featuring the bare-chested Pacman straight out of his sweaty, methodical mangling of Oscar Larios inside the ring.

The big hero has for a crown a golden McDonald's baseball hat, ablaze with the great American food chain logo.

But what really caught the eye was that bloody passion projected by the

boxing hero's strange denture, covered at the upper front part with the discolored, purplish boxing mouthpiece.

Instead of a carnival atmosphere, the commercial projects a cannibal madness that, in simple sense, should never be used in selling meat food products.

The full-page ad was supposed to invite Pacquiao fans to run to the nearest McDonald's outlet.

Sorry, but it has instead led this reporter to dig into a mound of old VCDs for the classic *Silence of the Lamb*.

Yes, the Pacman McDonald's ad has awakened a desire to again watch, in delight, Sir Anthony Hopkins' portrayal of the blood-thirsty, maniacal inmate boldly called Hannibal Lecter, a feat that won for the great actor an Oscar award.

Who knows, the Pacman rush-rush ad may yet win for McDonald's the "cutting the corners" award in local advertising?

### BARE EYE

Recab  
Trinidad



In fact, Pacquiao evidently had to cram and later pace himself masterfully in order to survive and win the lung-busting 12-round bout at the Araneta Big Dome last July 2.

Now, speaking of rush-rush jobs, here's a timely wake-up call from a very concerned sports fan on the country's participation in the forthcoming Asian Games.

Take it away, Sir:

Task Force Asian Games of the Philippine Olympic Committee has met with the national sports associations (NSAs) in relation to the Philippine

campaign in the Doha Asiad this December, or some five months from now. A stringent criteria for athletes belonging to the Top 10 in the Asian region as automatic qualification has been set. For sports that do not have such ranking in the Asian or even World level, the task force has still to make a decision. But what about the gold medalists in the previous Southeast Asian Games? What was the POC commitment to them?

After six months, the euphoria at the Philippine Sports Commission over the success in the SEA Games 2005 is still high. In fact, the PSC has not met the NSAs relative to training and preparation of the athletes qualified to the Asian Games (by the Task Force) When will the Asian Games preparation start in earnest?

Knowing the PSC, it will create its own Task Force AG to justify travel and

assorted expenses.

While the First Gentleman Foundation was again expected to rally corporate support, this back-up agency has cooled down and seemed to have lost interest in pursuing such noble project. This is a clear case of sports again falling victim to dirty politics. Fortunately, for the national athletes and the PSC, the 2006 national budget (PSC's P28 million) was not approved. Ergo, the 2005 PSC budget of P108 million, over and above the National Sports Development Fund (P240 M), will be in effect. Since the SEA Games hosting has already been done, it goes without saying that the PSC would be left with more money to spend for the Asian Games preparations, and perhaps to settle long overdue debts incurred during last year's hosting of the SEA Games.

So what is the PSC waiting for? If

money is still athletes, the share from tional fund by the reactiv

But what here is the t Doha Asiad. must stop p have the mo mandate is athletes so perform wel country. And excess perso money to the development are our futu main hope.

Incidental forthcoming Sincerely, PEDRO PA

### Dolphins eye 4th straight triumph

PHILIPPINE CHRISTIAN guns for a fourth straight victory against winless Jose Rizal even as Perpetual and Mapua clash today in the NCAA men's basketball tournament at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium. Orphaned by coach Junel Baculi and a loser in the inaugurals, the Dolphins have started to gather steam under interim mentor Joel De-alan and will be coming into the 2 p.m. game looking to grab solo second behind unbeaten and idle Letran. The Heavy Bombers remain the only winless side in the tournament. Their second loss came Wednesday, a 70-74 heart-breaker against Letran where they almost erased a 12-point deficit and came to within two in the final 43 seconds. In the other seniors match at 4 p.m., the Cardinals hope to recover from a 69-55 loss to San Beda, while Perpetual will enter the game smarting from a loss to PCL. **Marc Anthony Reyes**

### Chase for Nokia golf final slots up

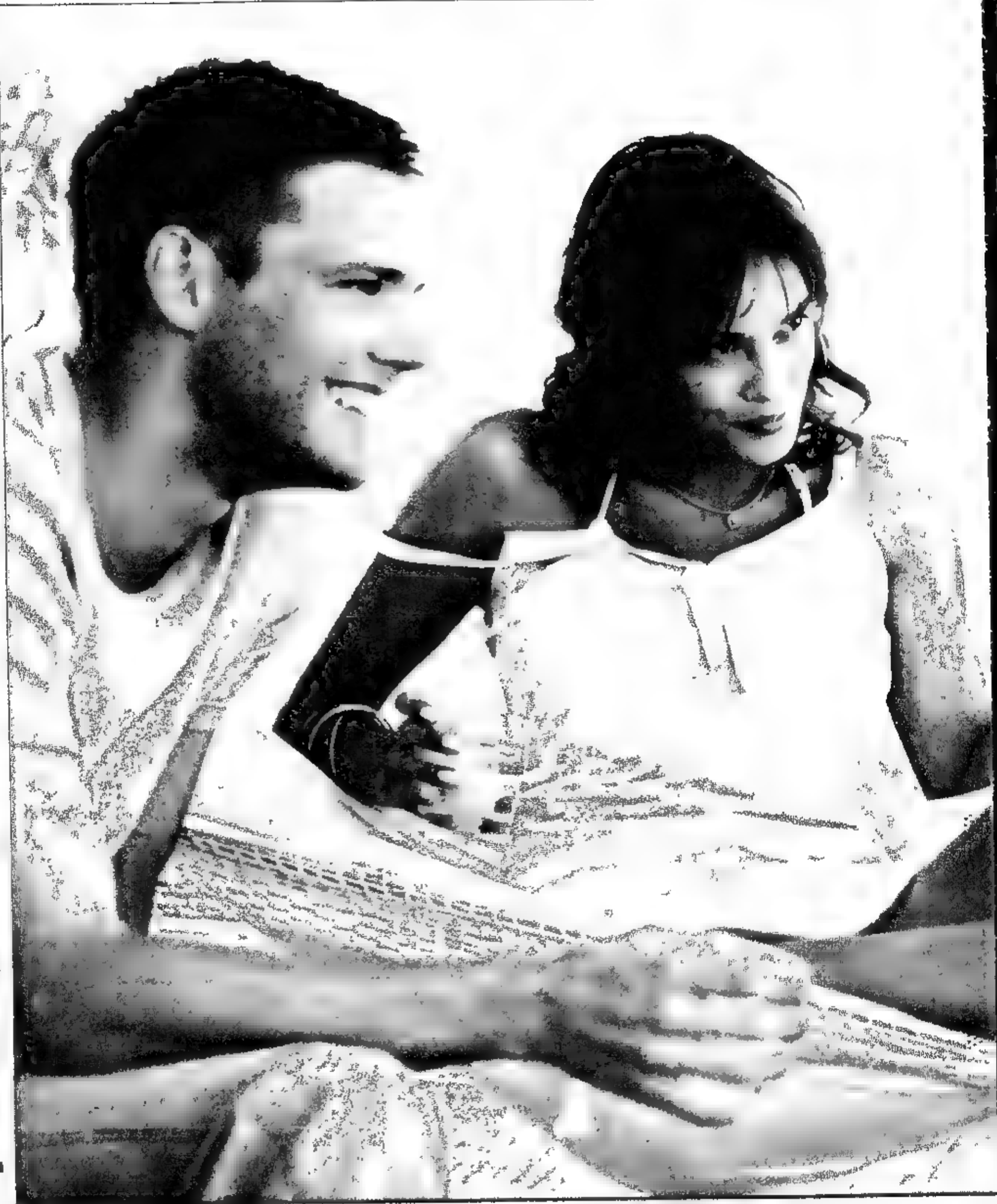
BF RESORT VILLAGE eyes the top spot in the 2006 Nokia Cup inter-village golf tournament as it tries to duplicate its first round romp at Forest Hills in the final 18 holes of the Nokia 3 eliminations at the Valley Golf Club today. Ed Cabrera and Julie Bustamante shot identical 39 points under the Stableford scoring system to spearhead the BFRV golfers' seven-point victory over the combined team of Cinco Hermanos/Monte Vista in the first round of the 36-hole qualifiers among the top golfing villages. BF Resort Village hopes to join the top finishers in the Nokia 1 and 2 divisions in the grand finals in November.

### Derby jackpot

BY WINNING ALL FOUR matches, Leobeng Villaroma of Bulacan hit the jackpot prize of P600,000 last Saturday in Roligon Mega Cock-pit's 5-cock derby. The five-day event will have its championship round tomorrow, Tuesday with a total guaranteed prize of P3.5 million at stake. For details, call 8512275, 8331638 and 8529812.

### 'Salpukan' on

SOME 70 TOUGH fights will be featured at Makat, Coliseum when the P3-M Salpukan Sa Taglugon 5-cock derby starts today with the 2-cock elimination round at 5 p.m. Five days of eliminations will be staged on July 10, 12, 15, 17 and 19 in the event that has B-Mag Derby Ace as sponsor. The qualifiers will battle for the title on July 22. For details, call 8963545 and 8966475 (look for Joan or Stephanie).



# Government Warning: Cigarette sn

# Veteran Cruz powers UP Maroons past UST Tigers

GAMES THURSDAY (Ateneo Memorial Coliseum)  
2 p.m.—UP vs National (Srs)  
4 p.m.—Adams vs Santo Tomas (Srs)

By Jasmine W. Payo

VETERAN GUARD MARVIN CRUZ buried a short jumper with three-tenths of a second left yesterday to lift University of the Philippines to a 94-92 victory over Santo Tomas in the UAAP men's basketball tournament at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium.

The rookie-laden Maroons outstepped the Tigers in a wild endgame as Cruz capped a 25-point, eight-assist, seven-re-

bound and four-steal effort with the winning basket from just inside the keyhole.

"No one believed in us," said Cruz. "But we're here in this tournament, we're here to show that we can keep up with the top teams."

The 5-foot-9 Cruz gave everything he had for the young Maroons, who joined opening-day winners University of the East and Ateneo.

Guard Miguel de Asis, one of nine rookies in the UP lineup, had an impressive debut as he fired 18 of his 20 points from beyond the arc.

"There were lapses, but the players played well," said UP coach Joe Lipa, a

veteran who started another tour of duty with the school he guided to its only UAAP title in 1986.

Earlier, the Ateneo Blue Eaglets opened the junior basketball hostilities with an 83-56 blowout of the National University Bulldogs.

Senior forward Raymond Austria shot 17 points and grabbed nine rebounds for the Eaglets, who lost to the UP Junior Maroons in the Final Four last season.

The Katipunan-based squad dictated the tempo from the opening quarter behind Enzo Katipunan and Tino Gonzaga, who finished with 13 markers apiece.

In the second high school game, Dexter

Rosales pumped in a game-high 18 points to lead the Far Eastern Baby Tamaraws to a lopsided 99-61 triumph over the UE Pages.

Jonathan Banal, son of former FEU coach Roy Banal, shot 11 of his 16 points in the pivotal third quarter, where the Baby Tams outscored the Pages, 36-16.

The varsity scores:  
UP 94—Cruz 25, De Asis 20, David 14, Reyes 12, Sorongon 8, Buyco 7, Epiro 4, Santos 2, Co 1, Mariano 0, Cacho 0, Braganza 0.

UST 92—Cruz 16, Vizcarra 14, Duncell 12, Espiritu 12, Cain 11, Abolou 11, Cortez 8, Evangelista 3, Taylor 3, Dixon 2, Gile 0, Alora 0.

Quarters: 23-21, 45-43, 65-64, 94-92.

## Milo run

### WINNER

ROXAS CITY—ARMY-man Adonis Lubaton and the promising Marijen Campos topped the Roxas City leg of the 30th National Milio Marathon here yesterday. The 27-year-old Lubaton of Iloilo City won when the early leader briefly lost his way while the 19-year-old Campos of Roxas City led all the way in capturing her second Milio Marathon leg championship. Local bet Rogin Diaz was poised to capture the men's race but he overshot the turning point and lost his early lead to Lubaton and Ramie Lacson of Jaramindan, Capiz. Lubaton, who placed fifth overall in the 42K grand finale in Metro Manila last year, completed the 21K elimination race in one hour 16 minutes and three seconds. Campos, on the other hand, finished the race in 1:29:39, 10 minutes ahead of her nearest pursuer, Hanny Jean Delfin. The top three finishers in the men's and women's divisions qualified for the national finals.

## Ukrainian takes yellow jersey

RENNES, FRANCE—Serhiy Honchar became the first Ukrainian to take the Tour de France leader's yellow jersey by dominating the first long time trial of the race on Saturday. The T-Mobile rider was easily the strongest against the clock, beating American Floyd Landis in the seventh stage by more than a minute. Sebastian Lang from Germany was third. Honchar, who turned 35 last week, grabbed the front of the yellow jersey in delight after it was slipped onto his shoulders on the podium. He said it was the best day of his career since he won the world time trial title in 2000. "It was totally unexpected, I did my maximum," he said through a translator on French television. After a week of mostly flat stages that favored sprinters, the first long individual time trial of the Tour was expected to give an indication of the overall race favorites. The shakeout didn't end up exactly that way, though many anticipated favorites ranked in the top 20 in the overall standings.

## Singh leads; Tiger in hunt

LEMONT, ILLINOIS—Tiger Woods vaulted into contention while Vijay Singh grabbed the lead at the Western Open on Saturday. Phil Mickelson, meanwhile, dropped out of the picture with a poor third round at Cog Hill. Singh is at 11 under 202 for the tournament—two strokes ahead of Carl Pettersson, Mathew Goggin, Stewart Cink, Trevor Immelman and Joa Oquille. Singh shot an even 35 on the front nine but birdied three after the turn, including No. 17, to finish the round at 3-under 68. He was two strokes off the lead when the day began. Woods was tied with defending champion Jim Furyk and Scott Gutschewski at 8 under, three shots behind Singh, after a 66 on the par-71 course. Mickelson shot 75 on Saturday and was 3 over for the tournament. Woods continued to rebound after missing the cut at the JS Open and shooting 1-over 72 on Thursday. A 67 on Friday put him at 3 under heading into the third round. AP

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# Germans take 3rd place, feel like world champs

STUTTGART—UNABLE TO ACHIEVE their goal of becoming world champions, host nation Germany hailed themselves as the people's champions after ending their World Cup campaign on a high with a 3-1 victory over Portugal in the third-place playoff on Saturday.

Two great goals from Bastian Schweinsteiger and an own goal from Annando Petit saw Germany net the consolation of third prize.

While the win could not make amends for the shattering 2-0 semifinal defeat to Italy, it capped off Germany's tournament in style and the German media hailed their heroes.

"You are our world champions," headlined Bild am Sonntag. "Third place—but with all respect to France and Italy it is we who feel like the world champions."

"Germany has played the most attractive football in the tournament and scored the most goals."

"The only thing we want to hear now is the yes word from (Jurgen) Klinsmann."

Germany manager Jurgen Klinsmann, a World Cup winner with West Germany in 1990, has yet to decide whether he will stay on as national coach saying he needed some time to gather his thoughts.

"So much has happened in the last few weeks and I haven't taken it all on board yet. Give me a few days," Klinsmann pleaded.

"I am overwhelmed by emotion at the moment and need to process things in my mind before making a decision."

After a rocky start, the German press has taken to Klinsmann and his attacking brand of football.

"The people's champions," declared the Frankfurter Allgemeine. "A perfect way to sign off. We may not have become champions but our performances are that of world champions."

German captain Michael Ballack, who missed the Portugal win through injury, said the players would try to convince Klinsmann to stay on.

"We will talk to the coach individually and try to convince him to stay—if he has not yet decided," explained Ballack. AFP

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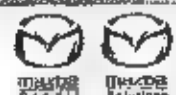
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## Estanislao, Velez bag junior titles

KARYN VELEZ AND Ronnel Estanislao staked their claim as the country's next badminton superstars by trouncing Gelita Castillo and Ralph Hidalgo respectively to claim the juniors crowns at the close yesterday of the P1 million JVC Open Badminton Championships at the Giorletta. Underscoring her domination of the 16-under division, Velez completely dominated Castillo, 21-9, 21-11, to rule the girls' category. Estanislao struggled past Ralph Hidalgo in the first set but fashioned out a 21-18, 21-11 victory in the boys' side. Those victories netted Velez and Estanislao P8,000 each plus gift items from the sponsoring JVC (Phils.), Inc. and Victor Bacchus Energy Drink, Lactacyd Snickers Chocolates, Pioneer Life, LT ME studio, Lifestyle Watch Store and Alaska Ace and Sunbolt.



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MAZDA

## ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Emmie G. Velarde

and 263 (Smart) or email us at [entertainment@inquirer.com.ph](mailto:entertainment@inquirer.com.ph)

Watching the iconic quartet perform is not unlike reliving the long-lost big band era.

## Manhattan Transfer shakes the Big Dome

By Pocholo Concepcion  
Contributor  
Photos by Ernie U. Sarmiento

**A**ND NOW, A CONCERT BY foreign artists who were not trying to resuscitate dormant, or dead, careers

Friday night at the Araneta Coliseum, the pop-jazz vocal quartet Manhattan Transfer demonstrated how talent, energy, extensive musical knowledge and, most importantly, constant gigging, could electrify an audience—even one that continues to reel from a spate of nostalgia acts.

### REVIEW

What distinguishes the group from other recent Manila visitors is the quality of its age-defying performance. Banish the thought that Tim Hauser, MT's brains, looks quite grand fatherly now. Or that Janis Siegel, Alan Paul and Cheryl Bentynue have likewise approached advancing years with greying hair or unintended flab here and there, and whatnot.

### Incredible vocals

But cherish the idea that they seem to have ingested every known elixir for building incredible vocal chords and lung power.

Seriously, the consistency with which they tackled both their four-part harmonies and individual solo numbers left us breathless and wondering how they could sound so graceful and flawless despite unusually difficult phrasing in most of their numbers.

Which brings us to another significant appeal that has not diminished since the group's inception in the early 1970s. We refer to a transparent and sparkling love for jazz in all its forms—from classic to revolutionary.

Watching the concert was not unlike reliving a long-lost era. It was like being thrust right back into smoky clubs and/or grand halls where bands and orchestras defined—with much enthusiasm—otherwise abstract ideas as "swing," "bop," and "fusion."

Hauser said Manhattan Transfer had always been much influenced by Count Basie, which partly explained why the songs, though intricately arranged, flowed like satin even as they fizzed up with an infectious sense of fun.

### Happy hippie

It was clearly not a jazz gig for the upright, snooty set. The sight of Bentynue alone, long limbs flailing, like a hippie on the happy pill, was enough to loosen up the audience. She was a joy to behold, a sprightly woman whose energy was matched only by her superb vocal calisthenics.

Each member of the quartet was given a solo spot, updating their listeners on tunes they had recorded on their own while keeping Manhattan Transfer going like a smooth-running train.

The group has so far recorded some 27

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12:10 2:35 5:00 7:25 9:50

2 SUPERMAN RETURNS  
12:30 3:40 6:50 10:00

7 LAKE HOUSE  
1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50

3 SEE NO EVIL  
1:30 3:35 6:40 7:45 9:50

8 THE FAST AND THE FURIOUS 3  
12:50 3:10 5:30 7:50 10:00

4 SUPERMAN RETURNS  
1:30 2:40 5:50 9:00

9 SPL  
1:40 3:45 5:50 7:55 10:00

5 LOVE WRECKED  
1:25 1:30 3:35 5:40 7:45 9:50

10 RV Sneak Preview

## ERMITA

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1 SUPERMAN RETURNS

10:00 12:15 2:30 4:45 7:00 9:15

2 UNITED 93

12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

5 LOVE WRECKED

12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

3 SEE NO EVIL

12:20 2:20 4:20 6:20 8:25 10:00

6 LAKE HOUSE

12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00

4 SPL

10:10 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

7 RV Sneak Preview

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10:00 12:15 2:30 4:45 7:00 9:15

2 SUPERMAN RETURNS

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6 RV Sneak Preview

3 SEE NO EVIL

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7 SUPERMAN RETURNS

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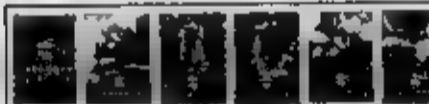
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## A2-2



TIM Hauser



CHERYL Bentyne

## Shaking the Big Dome

From page A2-1

albums and continues to play in small and big venues in and outside its US homeland. That was why its Araneta show was alive and jumping with a varied lineup that didn't rely solely on hits.

## Collaborators

Which brings us to one more peculiar charm the group could lay claim to—the way it transformed certified hits by other artists into its own very own, certainly not by covering it, but rather by transforming the whole song with the help of collaborators like Jay Hendricks, whose lyrics to a Weather Report cult classic, Joe Zawinul's "Birdland," turned it into the most played jazz record of 1980 and became a Manhattan Transfer signature.

Whenever the Araneta crowd shouted out for the hits, the group would simply laugh it off and proceed with its unpredictable set—this was also a chance to note the no-nonsense interplay of the quartet's four-piece band.

## Giddy

And when the hits did come, hearing "Boy from New York City," "Trickle Trickle," "Until I Met You," "Twilight Zone" and many others produced a giddy feeling, making it easy to overlook the fact that these "pop" gems were the result of so much study and collaboration between Manhattan Transfer and its tight production team.

Overall, it must be mentioned how a perfectly mixed audio system helped produce a wonderful concert—something that the Big Dome failed to provide for the front-act duo of singer Richard Merck and musical director Tot, Fuentes.



### 'RV' sneak previews

THE ROBIN WILLIAMS FAMILY ADVENTURE comedy "RV" will have special sneak previews today and tomorrow in selected theaters.

The movie is about an overworked family man Bob Munro (Williams), his wife Jamie (Cheryl Hines), their 15-year-old daughter Cassie (Joanna "Jojo" Levesque) and 12-year-old son Carl (John Hutcherson) who are in desperate need of some quality time together.

After promising to take them on a family vacation in Hawaii, Bob abruptly changes plans without telling them. Instead of a week in a tropical paradise, they're going on a road trip to Colorado in a recreational vehicle or RV.

Distributed by Columbia Pictures, the

movie opens in Metro Manila on July 19.

### 'Penguins' in Filipino

"March of the Penguins," the 78th Annual Academy Awards Best Documentary Feature, will be released by Unifil Pictures and shown in local theaters next month.

The docu, narrated by Morgan Freeman, the documentary will have a local version entitled "Penguin, Penguin, Paano Ka Ginawa?" with Sharon Cuneta as narrator. The script was translated by Chris Martinez and Eugene Evasco.

"Penguins" follows the remarkable journey of thousands of Emperor penguins across the ice deserts of Antarctica.

Directed by Luc Jacquet, the docu runs for 85 minutes.

### Wildlife show

"The Great Savannah Race," a three-part series featuring the wildebeest migration, premieres on July 16, 9 p.m. on the Animal Planet.

The journey begins in Tanzania, where veterinarian Patrick Garcia and scientists Anja Brunch Jensen and Sophie Grange gather for the start of their mission to fit 10 animals—seven wildebeests and three zebras—with collars so they can be tracked throughout the journey via satellite.

The series follows the daily trials of the 10 main characters from the start to the finish line.



JOHN Hutcherson of "RV"

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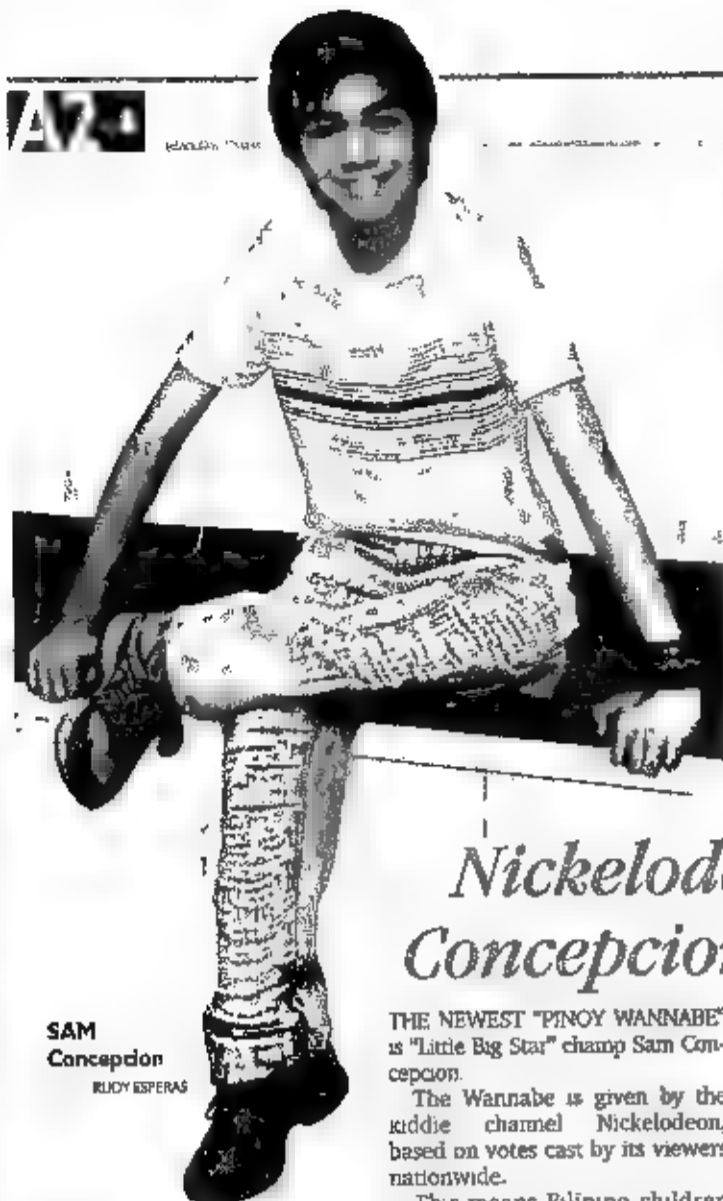
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CARMINA Villarroel with daughter Cassy



AKIKO Thompson

**A model at 4**  
BUT why should a Pinkbox—an accessories store—sign up this little doll for its image model? But Cassy is coming in with mom, Carmina Villarroel, quite a doll herself for this year's campaign.

**Not an ounce**  
DID you know that Akiko Thompson has not a drop of Filipino blood? She had merely taken on Filipino citizenship, and has since won international sports awards for the country. Akiko is one of the new reporters on "Probe"—now seen on ABS-CBN (Wednesdays, 11 p.m.)—along with Pinky Webb and Ricky Carandang.

**Hello, Bono?**  
HELLO, Moto? It's Bono of the rock mega star is endorsing Motorola's red MOTOSLVR, the first in a brand new portfolio of mobile handsets. We don't think Bono is doing this for nothing, although the big bucks are already going to fund a campaign to help eliminate AIDS in Africa.

**Jacko remembers**  
SANTA Monica, California. The plaintiff in a lawsuit against Michael Jackson prepared to rest his case Friday after the jury was shown hours of videotaped testimony from the star, who provided little memory of major financial transactions involving the former associate who claims he's owed \$1.6 million.

Jackson who was interviewed twice in London by E. Mark Schaffel's attorney, Howard King, said he did remember at least one occasion when Schaffel delivered money to him on the set of a music video. He said it arrived in a food bag and they called it "french fries," which became their slang for money. But Jackson said he thought that any money Schaffel gave him came from Jackson's own funds. "You never realized it was your own money?" asked King. "I would never ask him for his money," Jackson responded. "That's ridiculous, I would never."

## Nickelodeon voters pick Sam Concepcion as 'Pinoy Wannabe'

THE NEWEST "PINOY WANNABE" is "Little Big Star" champ Sam Concepcion.

The Wannabe is given by the kiddie channel Nickelodeon, based on votes cast by its viewers nationwide.

This means Filipino children who watch Nickelodeon would like to be like Sam, more than any other celebrity. He was pitted against Sam Milby, Manny Pacquiao, Iza Calzado and Bianca Gonzalez. Previous Wannabes are Sarah Geronimo (2004) and Kitchie Nadal (2005).

### Annabelle, after the outburst

AFTER her widely reported outburst over GMA 7's reportage of the Gutierrez family's tax case filed by the Bureau of Internal Revenue, Annabelle Rama said on Friday that she was grateful to the network for what it had done for her son Richard Gutierrez.

As his manager, Annabelle had pulled out Richard—star of

such Kapuso hit series as "Mulawin" and "Captain Barbell"—from the musical special mounted by the station for its 56th anniversary on Sunday evening.

In a phone call to INQUIRER, Rama said, "They turned Richard into a big star. For that, I will always be grateful." **Nini Valera**

### P20-M party

SPEAKING of the anniversary treat, held at the World Trade Center on Roxas Boulevard—Wilma Galvante, GMA 7 senior vice president for Entertainment TV told INQUIRER that about P20 million was spent to mount the show.

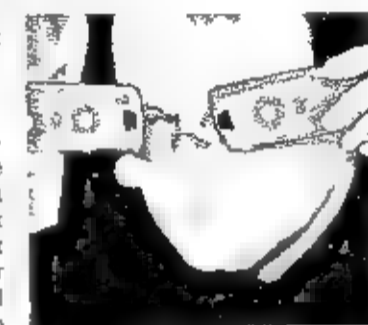
### Fearless Uma

RECALLS Susan Stroman, director of "The Producers," movie version. "When I met with Uma [Thurman], who's almost six feet tall, she asked, 'Do you think it's okay that I'm so much taller than Nathan and Matthew?' I said, 'Absolutely—they'll look up to you like a goddess.' She's fear-

less, and this makes a great musical comedy performer. She loves the physical challenge of it."

### Act of faith

DIRECTOR M. Night Shyamalan on Bryce Dallas Howard—his band leading lady in "The Village" and now his nymph in "Lady in the Water". "Casting her was an act of faith, I hadn't written the script yet, but I knew I wanted her to do it."



BONO



BRYCE Dallas



UMA Thurman

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THX

<b>G1</b>	1 SUPERMAN RETURNS	2 SUPERMAN RETURNS	3 LOVEWRECKED	4 SEE NO EVIL
<b>G4</b>	1 SUPERMAN RETURNS	2 SUPERMAN RETURNS	3 SUPERMAN RETURNS	4 THE FAST & THE FURIOUS: TOKYO DRIFT
<b>GB1</b>	1 UNITED 93	2 SUPERMAN RETURNS		
<b>GB3</b>	1 SUPERMAN RETURNS	2 SUPERMAN RETURNS	3 SUPERMAN RETURNS	4 THE FAST & THE FURIOUS: TOKYO DRIFT
<b>ATC</b>	1 SUPERMAN RETURNS	2 LOVEWRECKED		
<b>AGC</b>	1 SUPERMAN RETURNS	2 SUPERMAN RETURNS	3 INSIDE MAN	4 SEE NO EVIL
<b>M2</b>	1 SUPERMAN RETURNS	2 SUPERMAN RETURNS		

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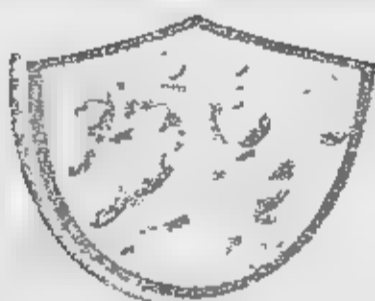
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100001

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2. **200001** LAKE HOUSE

3. **300001** SUPERMAN RETURNS

4. **400001** SUPERMAN RETURNS

5. **500001** THE FAST & THE FURIOUS -3

6. **600001** R. V. SNEAK PREVIEW

7. **700001** BARFLECK -2

8. **800001** LOVE WRECKED

9. **900001** SCARY MOVIE 4

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2. **200001** TAKE THE LEAD

3. **300001** SUPERMAN RETURNS

4. **400001** LOVE WRECKED

**SUPLEX CINEMA**  
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2. **200001** LOVE WRECKED

3. **300001** SEE NO EVIL

4. **400001** SPL HILL THE BEST WOLF

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3. **300001** KAPAG TUMUOK ANG PUSO

**Center Mall Cinema**  
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2. **200001** SUPERMAN RETURNS

**Jade Cinema**  
(Angeles City) tel 845 847 5800 to 60

1. **100001** SEE NO EVIL

2. **200001** SUPERMAN RETURNS

3. **300001** R. V. SNEAK PREVIEW

**Centre Plaza Cinema**  
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1. **100001** THE SCARY MOVIE 4

2. **200001** SUPERMAN RETURNS

**THE INSIDE MAN**  
(Alabang City Mall 2, Centrowest City, E. Rodriguez Ave, 11th Avenue City, Manila) 1355 to 17

1. **100001** SEE NO EVIL

2. **200001** SUPERMAN RETURNS

3. **300001** SUPERMAN RETURNS

4. **400001** R. V. SNEAK PREVIEW

**CINEMA 2000**  
100001

1. **100001** THE FAST & THE FURIOUS -3

2. **200001** SUPERMAN RETURNS

3. **300001** RESERVED

**Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall**  
(Boracay) tel 0549 431114

1. **100001** R. V. SNEAK PREVIEW

2. **200001** LAKE HOUSE

3. **300001** SUPERMAN RETURNS

4. **400001** THE FAST & THE FURIOUS

**Cinema 2000 Cinemaya**  
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1. **100001** SUPERMAN RETURNS

2. **200001** SCARY MOVIE 4

3. **300001** SCARY MOVIE 4

**Cinema 2000 Metropolitan**  
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1. **100001** REVENGE

2. **200001** SCARY MOVIE 4

3. **300001** THE LAKE HOUSE

4. **400001** SUPERMAN RETURNS

**Cinema 2000 Watermart**  
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**Cinema 2000 Watermart**  
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5. **500001** SCARY MOVIE 4

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# POWER PLANT

## CINEMA



Rockwell Center, Miami City      Tel. Noe 398-446-01

<b>LOVEWRECKED</b> <b>PG13</b> 1:50, 4:00, 6:05, 8:15, 10:30	<b>SUPERMAN            RETURNS</b> <b>G</b> 12:40, 3:50, 7:00, 10:10	<b>RUNAWAY            VACATION</b> <b>G</b> 12:40, 3:50, 7:00, 10:10
<b>SUPERMAN            RETURNS</b> <b>G</b> 1:50, 5:00, 8:10	<b>UNITED 93</b> <b>R13</b> 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00	<b>SEE NO EVIL</b> <b>R18</b> 2:00, 4:00

## See the world with Paolo and Miriam

THE POPULAR HOSTING TEAM OF PAOLO Bediones and Miriam Quiambao is currently making a comeback in the new GMA 7 show, "Pinoy Meets World." We caught the program's initial telecast last June 25, and found ourselves taking a trip with Paolo and Miriam all the way to—South Korea!

That's what the new show does: It takes viewers to different foreign destinations to appreciate the culture and tourist sights there, and also to interact with Filipinos who have chosen to live and work abroad.

Why Korea for the program's first sortie? Well, it isn't as humdrum-near as Hong Kong, but it isn't Europe, either, so it's both exciting and manageable.

*Neslor*

It also turns out that, due to the popularity of

Korean telenovelas on local TV, the people behind GMA 7's new program feel that Pinoy's interest in South Korea is high, hence the decision to visit that country with the show's TV cameras.

It's no surprise, therefore, that after visiting the usual theme park and other tourist attractions, the show makes a bee-line for the location sites used in the most popular period Korean television drama, "Jewel in the Palace."

Since we aren't huge fans of imported TV melodramas, we found our attention wandering during this long section.

We also noted that the "extreme adventure" part of the show had yet so our involvement was limited to appreciating the cultural, and touristic points the show's Korean cover age made. And, frankly, that wasn't enough to sustain our interest.

We did perk up when the program focused on a Filipina who worked in Korea. That gave the show a more personal touch that it sorely needed.

We trust that there'll be more of this in future telecasts, as well as more involving challenges. Make no mistake, we love traveling, even if only vicariously via our TV set, and we appreciate that new show's international outlook. Its first telecast simply wasn't that involving, that's all. Nothing that greater creativity and hustle can't fix.

As for the new show's returning team of hosts, Paolo and Miriam did okay, but perhaps the program's rather sedate proceedings cramped their more gung-ho signature style.

Again, nothing that requires greater involvement than what we can't take care of, so our hopes remain high.

'Pinoy Meets World' will finally come into its own as a should-see TV show.

**'Kapatid'**  
RPN-9's "Kapatid" is  
a 30-minute public af

hope and cheer every day at 4:30 p.m. Hosted by Dr. Joel Mendez, Connie Sison and Lianne Dy, the show has a livelihood segment, a portion on health problems, and a feature on people who have overcome great difficulties, thereby inspiring others not to lose hope.

**Madonna**

THE SPECIAL edition of Madonna's CD/DVD package "The Going to the Sun. A Secret," has been released. Directed by Jonas Akerlund, the compelling documentary shows the singer at her most personal, political and spiritual.

The DVD includes bonus footage while the live CD contains 11 tracks from 2004 "Reinvention" tour.

## Freestyle


**FREESTYLE** is back with new members, fresh sound and its latest album, "Freestyle Live @ 19 East." This is the first recording the band has done with new vocalists Joshua Desiderio and Mike Luis, and new bassist Rommel dela Cruz (formerly with Barbie Cradle).

The tracks were recorded during the band's gig at 19 East. The carrier single "Half-Crazy," is performed by Joshua.

The album will be launched on July 21 at the Music Hall, Siam Mall of Asin. The band will also make a stopover on July 14, 4:30 p.m. at Tower Records Makati, 4:30 p.m. at Landmark, 5:30 p.m. at Music One Greenbelt and 6 p.m. at Music Greenbelt.



*Nestor U Torre*



**EASTWOOD  
CINEMAS**

---

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---

**1**

**RUNAWAY VACATION**  
 1:00, 3:20, 5:40, 8:00, 10:20  
**PG-13**

**2**

**SUPERMAN RETURNS**  
 12:10, 3:40, 7:30, 10:30  
**GP**

---

**3**

**SUPERMAN RETURNS**  
 12:50, 4:20, 7:45, 11:10  
**GP**

**4**

**SEE NO EVIL**  
 2:30, 4:35, 6:40, 8:45, 10:50  
**R-18**

# SHANG CINEPLEX

**1 SUPERMAN RETURNS**  
MTRCB GP  
12 15 3 30 6 45 10 00

**2 RV**  
MTRCB GP  
1 20 3 30 5 40 7 50 10 00

**3 SEE NO EVIL**  
MTRCB R 18  
1 40 3 45 5 50 7 55 10 00

**4 SUPERMAN RETURNS**  
MTRCB GP  
1 30 4 45 6 00



**SUPERMAN RETURNS**  
11 45 3 00 6 15 9 30  
MTRCB GP

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Shang Cineplex

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**SNEAK PREVIEWS TODAY**

**Regular Run Begins JULY 19**

MIRAGE ▶ G ALL AGES ARE ADMITTED

The poster features a large, stylized illustration of a vehicle's rear end, specifically focusing on a large tire and the bumper area. The title "R.V.C." is written in large, bold, black letters across the middle of the vehicle. Below it, the subtitle "RUNAWAY VACATION" is written in smaller, bold, black letters. At the bottom of the poster, there is a photograph of three people: a woman on the left, a man in the center, and another woman on the right. They are standing outdoors, possibly near some trees or bushes. Above them, the text "8 WHEELS. 1 FAMILY. NO BRAKES." is written in a bold, sans-serif font.

**R.V.C.**


**RUNAWAY VACATION**

8 WHEELS. 1 FAMILY. NO BRAKES.


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**MTRCB** **R18**  
RESTRICTED  
 No one below 18 yrs. may be admitted


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 2 And Eric Kane



**The Axe**  
 ...and Eric Kane



**The Axe**  
 ...and Eric Kane



**Can You Share Evil In The Eye?**  
 WRESTLING SUPERSTAR **KANE**  
**SEE NO EVIL**  
 WRESTLING SUPERSTAR **KANE**

**OPENS JULY 12**

Nakakatawa. Nakakaiyak.  
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**ONE OF THE BEST FILMS OF THE YEAR**

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**CHERRY PIE PICACHE DIANA ZUBIRI**  
**CHRISTIAN VAZQUEZ ALFRED VARGAS**  
**KEANNA REEVES as Cristy and JOEY MARQUEZ**

in alphabetical order  
JASON  
ABALOS  
TERENCE  
BAYLON



**I Wanna Be Happy**

You can choose your friends  
but not your relatives

 written and directed  
**JOSE JAVIER REYES**  
a SEIKO Films Presentation

ROUNDUP

'Jewel' returns

THE KOREANOVELA 'JEWEL IN THE PALACE' returns to GMA 7 tonight before "24 Oras."

The series, a certified hit in the Philippines, tells the inspiring true story of Jang Geum (Lee Young Ae), who was trained to become a court lady in the royal kitchen before she became a nurse and eventually, a well-respected physician.

Two cast members—Mi Kyung Yang, who plays Jang's mentor Lady Han, and Jeong-Eun Cho, who tackles the role of a young Jang—recently visited Manila.



LEE Young Ae

at least two existing records—biggest opening weekend previously held by "X-Men: The Last Stand" at P58.83 million, and highest weekend ever for a Warner Bros. picture, surpassing 2005's "Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire" at P79.23M. The blockbuster's July 1 and July 2 figures in Metro Manila—P30.52 million and P25.44 million respectively—were also Warner Philippines' best-ever Saturday and Sunday grosses in history.

'King and I' auditions

BROADWAY Asia Entertainment is looking for six male and six female dancers for the Asian tour of the musical production "King and I."

1. Candidates must be in their late teens to late 20s, preferably with knowledge of Thai dancing. Interested parties should bring resumes with recent photos, heeled shoes and flats.

They must be prepared to dance barefoot. Auditions are set July 13 and 14 at the Steps studio in Pasong Tamo Ext., Makati. For pre-registration and scheduling, call Atlantis Productions, 892-7078 or 840-1187.

RP film wins in Italy

RAYA Martin's first fiction feature, "A Short Film About The Indio Naciona (or The Prolonged Sorrow of Filipinos)," won the Lino Micciche Prize for Best Feature film in the Nuovo Cinema section of the recently concluded 42nd Pesaro Film Festival in Italy.

The 96-minute RP entry tied with the German film, "Longing" and also won the Premio MusicFeel, which entitles Martin to free soundtrack services for his next film project.

Martin is a 2005 graduate of the UP Film Institute and the first Filipino filmmaker to be accepted in the prestigious Cinefondation Residence du Festival de Cannes in Paris.

"Indio Naciona," premiered in the Philippines on June 12, is a collection of silent film vignettes on the Filipino common man during the colonial times. It stars Bodjie Pascua and actors from the Barasoain Kaangangan Theater Group.



"SIX FEET UNDER"

QTV's new home

BEGINNING July 12, cable subscribers can watch QTV programs on Channel 24 with better reception. GMA Network and Central CATV executives earlier signed an agreement providing that "programs... currently airing on ZOE Channel 11 and GMA UHF Channel 27 will be carried and/or aired by Central CATV (SkyCable and Home Cable) on cable Channel 24 effective July 12, 2006."

For Sun Cable viewers, QTV may be viewed on Channel 19; Destiny Cable viewers on Channel 15.

HBO's Emmy nods

HBO received 95 nominations for the upcoming 58th Annual Primetime Emmy Awards.

"Elizabeth I" topped HBO's list of nominees with 13 nods. "Mrs. Harris" got 12 and "Six Feet Under," nine. "Rome" has eight nods; "The Girl in the Cafe" and "The Sopranos" seven each, and "Baghdad ER," six. Meanwhile, viewers in Asia can catch "Entourage" on July 30, "Curb Your Enthusiasm: Season One" and "Rome: Encores of Season One" in August and "Six Feet Under" (Season 5) in October.

'Superman' makes P135M

"SUPERMAN Returns" opened at No. 1 with a nationwide five-day weekend gross of P135.24 million, according to Warner Bros., the film's distributor.

In Metro Manila, the Bryan Singer-helmed action-adventure grossed P104.8M, breaking



SUPERMAN

'SPELLBINDING'

★★★★ "ASTOUNDINGLY INTENSE"

"ABSOLUTELY EXTRAORDINARY"

"STUNNING"

★★★★ "POWERFUL"

"UNQUESTIONABLY BRILLIANT"

"UNMISSABLE"

"A MONUMENTAL ACHIEVEMENT"

"UNFORGETTABLE"

"I URGE YOU TO SEE UNITED 93"

**R-13**  
STRICTLY FOR 13 AND OVER

ON SEPTEMBER 11, 2001, FOUR PLANES WERE HIJACKED. THREE OF THEM REACHED THEIR TARGET. THIS IS THE STORY OF THE FOURTH.

From the Acclaimed Director of 'THE BOURNE SUPREMACY' and 'BLOODY SUNDAY'

**UNITED 93**

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Universal Pictures

MTRCB PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult

The Funny Girl from She's THE MAN is back in another Hilarious Romantic Comedy

**AMANDA BYNES**

To get the guy of her dreams, One girl is really going overboard.

**LOVE WRECKED**

**NOW SHOWING**

CHRIS CARMACK JAMIE LYNN DICALA JONATHAN BENNETT

THE ADVENTURE CONTINUES ON JULY 12

MTRCB ALL AGES ADMITTED Caution: Film contains some scary scenes

JOHNNY DEPP ORLANDO BLOOM KEIRA KNIGHTLEY

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Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures

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basta ikaw! ang lakas mo sa

**Globe**

# ENTERTAINMENT

## Anne Hathaway wears Prada, but loves Chanel

**A**NNE HATHAWAY is camera-shy. Ask to take her photo and she'll cover her face with her hands. But get her on a movie set and she transforms into a confident creature.

In "The Devil Wears Prada" Anne plays Andy Sachs, a wannabe journalist whose working-class fashion sense is upended along with her modest career aspirations when she lands a job as second assistant to fashion magazine editor Miranda Priestly (Meryl Streep). The story is loosely based on Lauren Weisberger's novel about her experiences as personal assistant to Vogue editor Anna Wintour.

### TAKE FIVE

You said something about "The Devil Wears Prada" had terrified you?

I just worked with Meryl Streep, the best actress in the world. There was always the fear that she knows how to do it [and] I'll never get there. But she was very generous. None of my old rules applied, but she was very generous.

What is it about Meryl Streep's approach to acting that you admire?

She's always in the center of her character. She doesn't get distracted.

You looked very different in "Brokeback Mountain."

"Brokeback" was a period piece, and I liked what I did on that film. Ang Lee—I think he's pretty special, too—had my hair be the timeline of the story. ["Devil"] was easier to get make-up on every day.

Did you have to lose or gain weight to do this?

They actually asked me to gain. I'd just recovered from surgery so I couldn't eat anything



ANNE Hathaway in "The Devil Wears Prada"



and I'd lost all this weight. I really worked at it and I put on 10 pounds with pizza, beer and ice cream. Then I got to my first costume fitting and Pat Fields goes, "Not going to work. You need to be 120." At that moment I was 130. So I lost the weight again. It took about six weeks, eating just fruit and vegetables. That's my weight-loss-gain story.

What do you think about your character's fashion sense?

Andy is basically a girl who shops from a J. Crew catalog and a type-A nerd—which is something I relate to—I think she would have probably gone into the fashion archives. And then right before she goes to Paris, she sees there's a personality in there, someone who does not think what she puts on her body and [therefore] someone who definitely has style.

What were the best accessories that you wore in the film?

I really loved the Chanel boots. But they were auctioned off for charity, so they served a much better purpose than they would have just been sitting in my closet.

So are you anything like a "brand" person?

I don't flip [for] a brand, but something that's rather out of control is my love of Chanel. I look at a dress and say, "Wow, I really like that." Then I find out it's a Chanel. I'm so at the mercy of that brand.



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(See stock market report on Page B4)

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FARMERS AND FISHERS, AGRICULTURE BU-  
reaucrats, academics, NGOs and agribusiness  
practitioners came together last week in the  
National Agricultural Policy Summit, a gather-  
ing that had been planned over a year ago but  
delayed by the change in leadership in the De-  
partment of Agriculture (DA) last year.

President Fidel V. Ramos made good use of  
such multi-sectoral summits in the 1990s to  
seek policy consensus. Much of the produc-  
tive economic reforms of that decade were  
the product of such "summitry," whereby crucial  
policy issues were opened to wide public

## No FREE LUNCH



Cielito F. Habito

discussion by concerned stakeholders of op-  
posing persuasions. The underlying rationale  
is that the wider the ownership (and there-  
fore support) for policy reforms, the more  
durable those reforms will be.

## Durable problems

The case of Philippine agriculture has been  
somewhat of an oddity in this regard. In this  
sector, what have been durable are the prob-  
lems, not the solutions. After decades of mul-  
ti-sectoral consultations and policy delibera-  
tions, and to some extent actual reforms, the  
problems of the sector remain the same.

Some old-timers remarked to me in the sum-  
mit sidelines that we're still talking of the  
same problems and solutions that we did in  
the 1960s.

I could see what they meant. It was my task  
in last week's summit to recap the results of  
more than a year of consultations for the sec-  
tor undertaken by the Economic Policy Re-  
form and Advocacy (Epra) project, run by a  
consortium composed of the Ateneo de Mani-  
la University and six national NGOs with sup-  
port from USAID. Epra's aim is to widen par-  
ticipation in the economic policy reform pro-  
cess to ensure sound policies that promote the  
greatest good for the greatest number.

## Glaring anomaly

Indeed, the list of issues in the farm and  
fisheries sector that emerged from those na-  
tionwide consultations trace back to the era of  
the current president's father, four decades  
ago. Low productivity (which statistics show

to have worsened, not improved, through  
those decades), low farm incomes, poor ac-  
cess to farm credit, inadequate farm infras-  
tructure, high post-harvest losses, monopoli-  
es and monopolies in trading, and expen-  
sive inputs were pressing problems then as  
they continue to be now.

How could we have let down the sector  
that provides livelihood, directly or indirectly,  
to an estimated two-thirds of all Filipinos  
through all those years?

Quite clearly, there has been a failure of  
governance on a massive scale in Philippine  
agriculture. Overseen by a government de-  
partment with one of the biggest budgets in  
the Philippine bureaucracy, the fact that the  
bulk of the stakeholders in the sector remain  
the poorest in our society seems a glaring  
anomaly.

## Easy prey

And anomaly it is. What else do you call a  
massive program that purportedly allocated  
hundreds of millions of pesos to provide fer-  
tilizers for small farmers, but has been deter-  
mined by the Commission on Audit to have  
been widely diverted to the wrong purpose  
and to the wrong pockets? And yet the only  
public officials who have been penalized are  
those suspected of having "spilled the beans?"

The odious fertilizer scam is but one among  
countless examples of how powerful interests  
have made the Department of Agriculture  
their playground and milking cow. The de-  
partment's large budget makes it easy prey for  
an immoral few who would put aside the wel-  
fare of tens of millions of Filipinos to support  
their own narrow political ends.

## It's governance, stupid!

Perhaps what was different about last  
week's summit was the wide recognition  
among the participants that no well-mean-  
ing policies could work for agriculture unless  
governance of the sector is first put in order.  
The dominance of the agriculture bureau-  
cracy—which subsumes the fisheries sector, it-  
self a massive sector that could very well be  
overseen by a department of its own—may be  
its own downfall. There is now wide support  
for the notion that local governments must  
play the stronger role in managing agricul-  
ture in their respective areas—that they  
must do the "rowing," while the DA confines  
itself to "steering." The latter includes tech-  
nical guidance and capacity building for  
LGUs, setting and enforcement of appropri-  
ate regulatory standards, and coordination  
of research and development—but not di-  
rectly running projects on the ground, some-  
thing LGUs are much better placed to do.  
That way we should be able to avoid the mas-

NO FREE LUNCH B4

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**By Doris C. Duménil**

THE BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS IS set to scale down its inflation forecast of 7.3-7.9 percent for this year in line with expectations that pressures on consumer prices would further ease in the coming months.

BSP Deputy Governor Diwa Guinigundo told reporters on Friday that a revision in the country's inflation forecast would be discussed by the inter-agency Development Budget Coordination Committee during its meeting this week.

"The average will likely be lower than 7.3-7.9 percent," Gumigundo said, noting that the average for the first six months was already below this projection at 7.06 percent.

"We maintain the view that inflation will continue to ease in the second half of 2006," he said.

He said that after slowing down to 6.9 percent in May and 6.7 percent in June, the country's inflation was expected to continue slow down starting this month.

The forecast of 7.3-7.9 percent was higher than the official government target of 4-5 percent, as it took into account the hike in the value added tax rate from 10 to 12 percent starting last February and the assumption that Dubai crude oil prices will hit about \$62 per barrel versus last year's average of \$49.3 per barrel.

For next year, the government expects Dubai crude prices to average higher at \$63.36 per barrel. Despite this, however, the BSP sees the inflation easing back to the target range of 4-5 percent next year alongside

## PNB's planned \$100-M tier 2 offering OKd

THE MONETARY BOARD HAS APPROVED Philippine National Bank's offering of up to \$100 million in tier 2 or subordinated debt papers or its peso equivalent.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Deputy Governor for bank supervision and examination, Nestor Espenla Jr. told reporters on Friday that the Monetary Board had given PNB the flexibility to raise tier 2 capital either through a local offering or a foreign net issuance.

The board earlier allowed PNB to tap the offshore bond market through a new tier 2 issuance worth \$100 million.

Under the new risk-based capital adequacy framework adopted by the BSP, qualifying capital consists of tier 1 or core capital at tier 2 or supplementary capital, less deductions.

Credit rating agency Standard & Poor's, an earlier commentary hailed PNB's strong franchise and network, improving financial profile, including loan quality, and its undiminished profitability.

Despite the significant improvements, however, S&P said PNB's operating and financial profile continued to be comparatively weaker by domestic and global standards.

## Peco allowable base rate raised

THE ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION slightly increased the earlier approved allowable base rate of Panay Electric Co. (Peco), following the inclusion of certain items that were omitted during the first computation.

In an order dated June 27, the regulatory body jacked up the power distributor's allowable base rate as of Dec. 31, 2004 to \$2.553 per kilowatt-hour (kWh).

The peso component of the base rate, however, will be adjusted monthly based on consumer price index factor and the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas-published exchange rate on the last day of the applicable billing month.

Under the revised order, the allowable generation rates, excluding allowable fuel for the period Dec. 14, 2005 to Jan. 15, 2006 P1.3937 per kWh up to the 373,032,024 minimum guaranteed electrical quantity (MGE) and 20 cents in excess of the MGEQ.

For the dollar component, the base rate is 2.06 US cents per kWh up to MGEQ and 1.47 US cents per kWh beyond MGEQ.

This used to be 1.83 US cents per kWh in MGEQ and beyond for the same period.

From Jan. 16, 2009 to January 2025, the allowable base rates are now P1.3937 per kWh to MGEQ and 20 centavos per kWh in excess of MGEQ. The dollar component is placed at US cents per kWh up to and beyond MGEQ.

Under the previous order, the rates pegged at P1.0737 per kWh up to MGEQ 73.47 per kWh beyond MGEQ. The dollar ponent was placed at 1.22 US cents per kWh to and in excess of MGEQ. Abigail

expectations of a stable exchange rate and soft domestic interest

It was assumed that the exchange rate would remain stable at P51.53 to the US dollar from this year until 2010. The strong peso, which is expected to result in lower import bill, is seen to temper the rise in country's inflation rate.

The recent downtrend in domestic inflation has, in turn, eased the pressure on the BSP to follow the monetary tightening in the United States, Europe and Japan.

The BSP's policy-making board has maintained the 7.5 percent rate for overnight borrowing and 9.75 percent for overnight lending since October last year.

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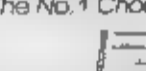


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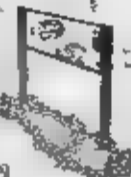


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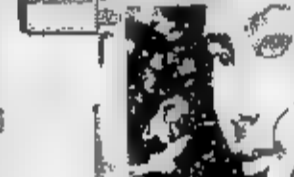
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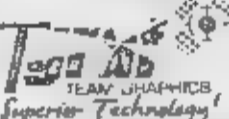


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"There is an appointed time for everything  
and a time for every affair under the heavens...  
whatever God does will endure forever..."  
■ Ecclesiastes 3:1, 14

# DOLORS GAFFUD CUMAGUN

(27 May 1918 - 06 July 2006)

Widow of Ambassador Manuel R. Cumagun (Retired)

Peacefully joined our Lord at the age of 88.

She is survived by her loving children: Tony and Ester, Joe and Oning, Vic and Nancy, Noli and Barbara, Malu and Luie; grandchildren: Anne, Franjo, Anthony and Angel, Michael and Kaoru, John Paul, Annette and Vincent, Victor and Amy, Deryk and Tracey, Michelle, Nikki and Gino; great-grandchildren: Michelle, Jaime, Camille, Paolo, Kenichi, Reiji, Vinette, Bria, Nico, Danielle and Adrienne, sisters-in-law, nephews, nieces and other relatives request the pious reader to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Capilla de San Francisco, Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park, Makati City.

Interment will be on Tuesday, 11 July 2006 after the 2 p.m. Mass.

## Message of Thanks

### Julio "July" Apostol Salazar

who joined our Lord  
on June 2, 2006 at the age of 54

Our beloved Papa was given a second life almost 10 years ago when he underwent a heart bypass operation. Since then, he celebrated his birthday twice every year... October 9 which was the date when he was bypassed and November 14 - his birthday. He thanked God everyday and dedicated every minute of his life to Him.



He was a leader and a follower. A crusader and a believer. He was a gift and a blessing for all of us. The best father one could ever have.

He was truly a MAN OF GOD.

To all his friends, relatives and clients of Munst Services, we, his immediate family, wife Norma, children Anthony & Lyn, Junosa, Junlee and Mark, sisters, brothers and grandchildren would like to thank all of you for the spontaneous outpouring of love, sympathy and support.

He will live in our hearts knowing that he has touched and inspired so many lives and organizations in his concern for others.

IN MEMORY OF THE  
7TH DEATH ANNIVERSARY  
OF THE LATE

## MARCELO BRIONES FERNAN

25 October 1927 - 11 July 1999

Holy Masses will be offered on Tuesday, July 11, 2006  
at the following churches:

CEBU		BOGO, CEBU	
Cebu Memorial Park	5:30 P.M.	Christ the King Church	7:00 A.M.
Sacred Heart Church	6:00 A.M.	Green Meadows, Q.C.	
Cebu Metropolitan Cathedral	6:30 A.M.	Santuario de San Jose	7:15 A.M.
Redemptorist Church	7:00 A.M.	St. John Bosco Parish, Makati	7:30 A.M.
Santo Rosario Church	7:00 A.M.	Santuario de San Antonio	12:15 P.M.
Basilica del Sto. Niño	8:00 A.M.	Mary the Queen Church	6:00 P.M.
St. Therese of the Child Jesus	12:15 P.M.	St. Alphonsus Mary de Liguori	6:00 P.M.
Capitol Parish Church	12:15 P.M.		
Mabolo Parish Church	6:00 P.M.	San Vicente Parish Church	5:00 A.M. & 5:00 P.M.

Please join his family and friends in prayer for his eternal happiness.

I have  
fought the  
good fight,  
I have  
finished the  
race,  
I have kept  
the faith  
(2 Timothy 4)

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## CLASSIFIEDS

### TARLAC II ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

San Nicolas, Concepcion, Tarlac

#### INVITATION TO BID

All parties interested to bid for the supply and delivery of six (6) months materials requirements stated below are hereby invited to pre-qualify with Tarlac II Electric Cooperative, Inc. (TARLCO II). Only pre-qualified applicants shall be invited to participate in the bidding.

1. Wire, galv. steel, 3/8" 7 strands, Galv Steel	3,520 pcs.
2. Wire, POLYACSRW2 AWG, Code Name: Pignat	16,520 meters
3. Wire, ACSRW2 Code Name: Sparrow	22,000 meters
4. Wire, ACSRW336 4, AWG, Code Name: Merlin	10,000 meters
5. Wire #10 AWG, 110, 110, 110, 110	250 meters
6. Wire #10 AWG, 110, 110, 110, 110	250 meters
7. Wire #10 AWG, 110, 110, 110, 110	250 meters
8. Wire #10 AWG, 110, 110, 110, 110	250 meters
9. Conductor, THHN, Copper, Standard, 8.0 mm sqd.	10,000 meters
10. Same as item No. 9 except 14.0 mm sqd. Black	5,000 meters
11. Same as item No. 9 except 2.0 mm sqd. Black	900 meters
12. Conductor, Duplex, #6 AWG	55,000 meters

PACKAGE 2:	
1. Transformer, Distribution, 1-Ph, 10 KVA	3 units
2. Same as Description of No. 1 except 15 KVA	8 units
3. Same as Description of No. 1 except 25 KVA	12 units
4. Same as Description of No. 1 except 37.5 KVA	5 units
5. Same as Description of No. 1 except 50 KVA	3 units

PACKAGE 3:	
1. Socket Base, 1" Hubs, C1 - 100, 4 Jaws, 2 Wire Connected	1,800 pcs
2. Socket Base, 1" Ph, C1 200, 4 Jaws, Heavy Duty, Rectangular	250 pcs
3. Meter 100W, 1" Ph, 3 W, Class 200, Fm 25, 80 Hz, 170s	2,500 units
4. Meter, Electronic, 1" Ph, 3 W, 240 V, C1-200, 60 Hz, Fm 25	200 units

PACKAGE 4:	
1. 1 Pair Solid Anchor Concrete 4" x 4"	240 pcs
2. Pole, Steel, 26.00" Octagonal Type	100 pcs
3. Pole, Steel, 55.00" Octagonal, Class 3	20 pcs
4. Pole, Steel, 30.00" Octagonal Type	50 pcs
5. Pole, Concrete, 35.00" Round Type C1-5	10 pcs
6. Pole, Concrete, 35.00" Round Type C1-5	10 pcs

PACKAGE 5:  
Six (6) months supplies for the following items:  
a. Lamp Hardware, connectors, fuse links, steel cross-arms, lightning arrester cut-outs and others  
b. Service entrance materials and drops (assorted).

Prequalification documents shall be received from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM by the Prequalification Committee through its Chairman, MR. PABLO D. MAGALLAS, at TARLCO II Main Office Building located at San Nicolas, Concepcion, Tarlac. Prequalification documents are available beginning July 13, 2006.

Submission of Prequalification Documents: July 13, 2006  
Date and Time of Bidding Conference: July 20, 2006, 1:30 PM  
Date and Time of Bidding shall be announced during the Bidding Conference.  
Accredited suppliers previously disqualified need only to update their files with TARLCO II.

TARLCO II reserves the right to reject any and all applications to pre-qualify and to bid without offering any reason, and reserve any defect herein. TARLCO II reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

Additional information shall be furnished upon request. Send all communications to the PBAC, Secretariat at the address mentioned above or at Telephone No. (46) 823-0460 or Fax No. (46) 823-0471 & 823-0224.

(Sgd.) PABLO D. MAGALLAS  
PBAC Chairman

(P11) July 7 & 8, 2006

### INVITATION TO BIDDERS FOR SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF

SCB-GSC-061

#### PURCHASE OF VARIOUS IT EQUIPMENT AND SOFTWARE

(Name of Project)  
35 items of different IT Equipments and Software  
(pls. see also details @ www.gscsantos.gov.ph)

The Local Government Unit of General Santos City, through the CY 2006 Annual Budget intends to apply the sum of Two Million Three Hundred Ninety Thousand Four Hundred Ninety Five Pesos (P2,319,495.00) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to purchase under the contract for the Purchase of Various IT Equipments and Software. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid Opening.

The Local Government Unit of General Santos City now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the Purchase of Various IT Equipments and Software. Delivery of the GOODS is required by 30 calendar days. The description of an eligible bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents (BID).

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens, Philippine corporations or organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, BID. The bidder with the lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine the award of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.

Interested Eligible Bidders may obtain further information from the Local Government Unit of General Santos City and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Bidders that present the eligibility check upon the presentation of the Notice of Eligibility in the SAC Secretariat, at the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P1,000.00 to the City Treasurer's Office. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the bidder or his authorized representative.

The Local Government Unit of General Santos City will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested on July 13, 2006, 2:00 o'clock in the afternoon at the BAC Office, 2nd Floor, Right Wing, City Hall Building, General Santos City.

Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before 2:00 o'clock in the afternoon of July 25, 2006. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form of Cash, Certified Check, Cashier's Check, Manager's Check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit equivalent to One Percent (1%) of ABC or Bank Guarantee equivalent to One and a Half Percent (1 1/2%) of ABC or Surety Bond equivalent to Ten and a Half Percent (20%) of ABC or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency. Late Bids will be rejected.

Bid opening shall be at 2:00 o'clock in the afternoon of July 25, 2006 at the BAC Office, 2nd Floor, Right Wing, City Hall Building, General Santos City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.

The Local Government Unit of General Santos City reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to amend the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Bids and Awards Committee  
Gen Y. Pagar  
2nd Floor, Right Wing, City Hall Building, General Santos City  
Tel. Nos. (083) 301-0553, (083) 302-7210  
Fax: (083) 301-0553

(Sgd.) NAEI JOSEPH A. CRISPINO  
BAC Chairman

(P11) July 8 & 9, 2006



### PAMPANGA II ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

GUAGUA, PAMPANGA

June 2, 2006

#### INVITATION TO BID

PAMPANGA II ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. (PELCO II) WITH OFFICE ADDRESS AT SAN ROGUE, GUAGUA, PAMPANGA IS INVITING INTERESTED BIDDERS FOR THE SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF THE FOLLOWING PACKAGES:

PACKAGE 1:		
Transformer, Distribution 7500/3200, 220 volts		20 units
25 KVA		20 units
37.5 KVA		20 units
50 KVA		20 units

PACKAGE 2:		
Conductor, ACSRW Bare		10,000 meters
#2		100,000 meters
#10		25,000 meters
#20		25,000 meters
#30		25,000 meters
#40		15,000 meters
Conductor, ACSRW Polyethylene #10		50,000 meters
Conductor, ACSRW Duplex #6		5 units
TW Wire #10 Copper		5 units
TW Wire #12 Copper		5 units
TW Wire #4		5 units
TW Wire #6 Copper		5 units
TW Wire #8 Copper		15 units
THHN #12 Stranded Copper		20 units

PACKAGE 3:		
Assorted Pole Line Hardware, Insulators, Fuse Links, Connectors and Fuse Cut-Outs with L.A. (Note: Detailed items and quantity are specified on bidding documents)		

You are therefore invited to submit your bid/proposals to the PBAC and participate in a sealed bidding on July 14, 2006 (Friday), 10:30 A.M. at PELCO II Board Room San Roque, Guagua, Pampanga wherein your bid will be opened in your presence or that of your representatives. Late submission and/or incomplete bid documents shall not be accepted. Before the bidding process there will be an orientation scheduled on July 11, 2006, 10:00 A.M. at PELCO II Board Room.

REQUEST FURTHER TO INCLUDE IN YOUR SEALED BIDS/PROPOSALS ASIDE FROM THE BID AMOUNT THE TERMS OF PAYMENT AND AVAILABILITY OF STOCKS. THE BID BOND IS EITHER IN THE FORM OF CASH OR MANAGER'S CHECK EQUIVALENT TO TWO AND ONE HALF PERCENT (2 1/2%) OF THE TOTAL BID PRICE OR SURETY BOND (W/O R) EQUIVALENT TO TEN PERCENT (10%) OF THE TOTAL BID PRICE. ALL BIDDERS ARE REQUESTED TO BE AT PELCO II BOARD ROOM AT EXACTLY 10:30 A.M. TO SECURE BID DOCUMENTS AND FURTHER CLARIFICATION PLEASE CONTACT OR VISIT PBAC CHAIRMAN ENGR. RAUL L. CANLAS, TEL. NO. (045) 808-2850 OR MR. NIEL S. KISPAT (045) 801-0854-05.

LATE SUBMISSION OF BIDS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. THE PBAC HAS THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS THAT DO NOT COMPLY WITH THE REQUIREMENTS. WAIVE ANY INFORMALITY IN THE PROPOSAL RECEIVED AND TO ACCEPT SUCH MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE COOPERATIVE.

(Sgd.) ENGR. RAUL L. CANLAS  
PBAC Chairman

Noted by:

(Sgd.) MR. SULPICIO C. LAGARDE JR.

SECRETARY

(P11) July 8 & 9, 2006





# BSP: Watchdog needed to oversee securities trade

## DOF wants to limit tax perks grant

By Michelle V. Ramo

THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE WANTS TO program the grant of fiscal incentives—limiting that portion of the national budget for tax and duty perks to which businesses are entitled—in an effort to keep down the losses of the deficit-ridden government.

Under the proposal, the government shall have a three-year indicative expenditure program for fiscal incentives. This means that the total amount of tax- and duty-free privileges to be granted to businesses over the next three years would not exceed the program set.

The proposal to set up the fiscal incentives budget for a three-year period is consistent with the plan to amend the programming of the national budget from the current yearly period to every three years. The plan is embodied in the Fiscal Responsibility bill pending in Congress.

According to a DOF discussion paper on fiscal incentives, setting up a national budget for incentives would be one way to strictly monitor the granting of incentives and help authorities evaluate the net economic effect of the incentives.

The paper is expected to be presented to the Senate when it begins deliberations on the fiscal incentives rationalization bill.

Under the proposal, the three-year budget for fiscal incentives can be formulated by an inter-agency unit to be composed of the Department of Trade and Industry, the National Economic and Development Authority and the DOF.

Quoting a study by Renato Reside, an economist from the University of the Philippines, the DOF said that, on a net basis, the fiscal incentives granted by the Board of Investments in the year 2004 alone resulted in a negative economic benefit of P55.72 billion.

Thus means that the amount of foregone revenues due to the BOT's grant of tax- and duty-free privileges was higher than the amount of economic benefits resulting from investments using the same perks.

"There is really a need to overhaul the system of granting fiscal incentives," Reside said in a phone interview. "In the BOT's case, we actually lose, and not gain, from the incentives."

The BOT grants incentives to firms belonging to the Investment Priorities Plan. The IPP which is revised every year, is a list of industries which the government considers a priority.

## Chinese-Filipino group backs plan to amend BOT law

By Rannel W. Domingo

A GROUP OF CHINESE-FILIPINO BUSINESSMEN has supported plans to amend the build-operate-transfer law, saying members were prepared to invest in BOT ventures under an improved law.

Francis Chua, president of the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FFCCCI), said members were very interested in BOT projects, especially railways.

But Chua said the investors were hesitant, considering the apparently inadequate protection for them as well as the public in high-profile BOT failures.

He said businessmen were closely monitoring developments in Congress where a pending bill, proposes amendments to the existing law, including a provision for the creation of a BOT Authority.

According to the sponsor of House Bill No. 5002, Rep. Joey Salceda, the BOT body would be chaired by the President of the Republic and would seek to promote public-private partnership in integrating resources to boost infrastructure development in road networks, ports, bridges and information technology.

Also, the creation of the agency is aimed at firming up the government's commitment and full attention in identifying critical areas of private sector participation in infrastructure development.

Salceda had said in a statement that one of the loopholes of the current BOT law was the "strong temptation" for collusion between the implementing agency and its private sector BOT partners.

"We have seen that many of the big-ticket BOT fiascos were caused by unwarranted contract changes, including sovereign guarantees where there should be none," he said.

The lawmaker said HB 5002 makes collusion more difficult because a single body like the proposed BOT Authority would oversee and regulate amendments or supplements to approved BOT contracts.

He lamented that while the Philippine BOT model was copied around the world, the country now ranks among the laggards in attracting BOT investments.

Chua said investors believe the proposed BOT Authority would be able to restore transparency and accountability to the BOT scheme.

"The FFCCCI supports the creation of the agency as long as it would streamline the process and in the end support private sector initiatives," he said.

## Money market dealers cry foul over allegations of price manipulation

By Doris C. Dumlaog

THE BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS is bent on getting a watchdog to oversee the secondary trading of government securities even as it has yet to prove allegations of price-fixing at the height of the recent mass sell-off of unit investment trust funds (UITFs).

"We have yet to establish that there was manipulation, but these things shouldn't even be doubted," said Nestor Espenilla Jr., BSP deputy governor for bank supervision and examination.

"One way to prevent manipulation is to have a referee who's not in the market," Espenilla told reporters Friday night, referring to a self-regulatory organization (SRO) that would assume oversight functions.

An SRO is an independent entity allowed by the Securities and Exchange Commission to govern and police its own ranks, such as the Philippine Stock Exchange.

Last May, some money market traders were said to have conspired with each other to prevent the sharp decline of bond prices at the secondary market during the UITF sell-off last May, apparently to protect the net asset value of funds held by their banks.

On Friday, Money Market Association of the Philippines (MART) issued a statement categorically denying there

was price manipulation in the setting of interest rate benchmarks called the MART1—now the subject of a BSP probe.

"The procedure of coming up with MART1 involves 25 market-making financial institutions contributing live, dealable prices, which reflect their individual views on interest rates," MART said in its statement, which it released after a board meeting. "This would make it very difficult for one or several players to manipulate the outcome of the process."

MART explained that the objective of the participating institutions was to create a credible yield curve for Philippine government securities and to provide liquidity for these debt instruments.

It also said that MART1 is the formula used to derive interest rate benchmarks using best bids instead of "done" rates in the market for various tenors.

Created in 1998, the association said MART1 had since become the most widely accepted benchmark for Philippine government securities both in the local and international markets.

It said that no less than the Bureau of Treasury had used the MART1 as an indicative interest rate benchmark in pricing past issuances of retail Treasury bonds.

"We support the investigation being conducted by the BSP regarding this matter," the statement said. "Any effort or move that will further strengthen the

credibility of the MART1 interest rate benchmark is welcomed by MART."

But in its statement, MART had no comment on the BSP's proposal for an SRO to oversee secondary trading of government securities.

"We have a job to do in looking into the truth: Is there manipulation?" Espenilla said. "We have to resolve that question and take action (when) necessary. At the same time, it's the basic advocacy of the BSP to promote capital market reforms. There must be proper oversight, and one way of doing that is to have an SRO."

"The BSP can't regulate because it's not our job to regulate markets," he added. "As part of the reform process, there ought to be an SRO."

In his remark about an SRO, Espenilla explained that he was not referring to the Regd.mg fixed income exchange Philippine Dealing & Exchange Corp. (PDEX), which is now applying for SRO status.

"It is really up to the banks... This is a trading market involving the public and, ultimately, it has to be properly regulated," he stressed.

One bank treasurer said that Mart1 "became popular for lack of any other benchmarks."

"It's not perfect," the treasurer said.

He also said that MART1, which is now widely used by banks to price their



INTERVIEW

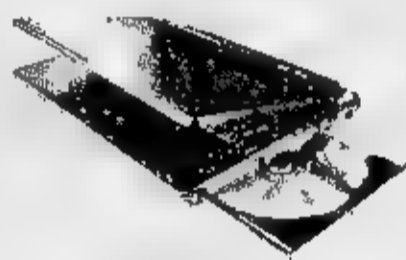
lending, may co-exist with PDEX.

"As liquidity improves, the market will decide which benchmark is better," the treasurer said.

The banker also noted that, while the BSP had clipped the powers of the money market association on the heels of the price manipulation probe and had chosen to deal directly with the Bankers Association of the Philippines, the group MART would still need to be needed in carrying out market reforms.

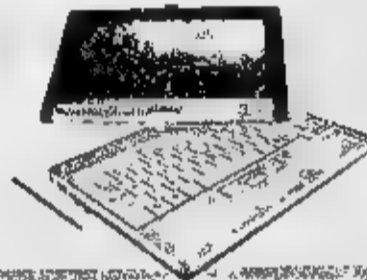
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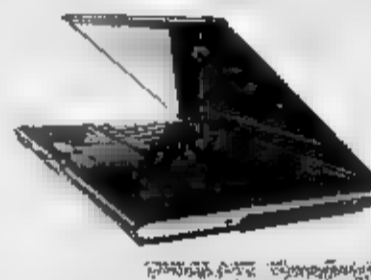
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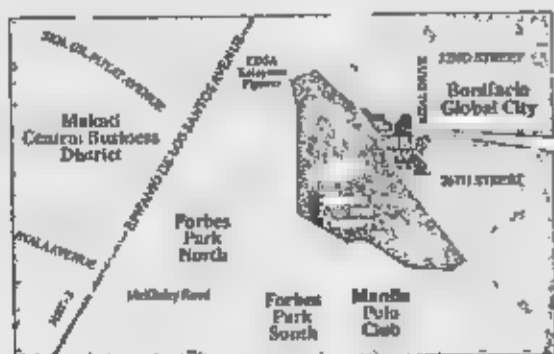
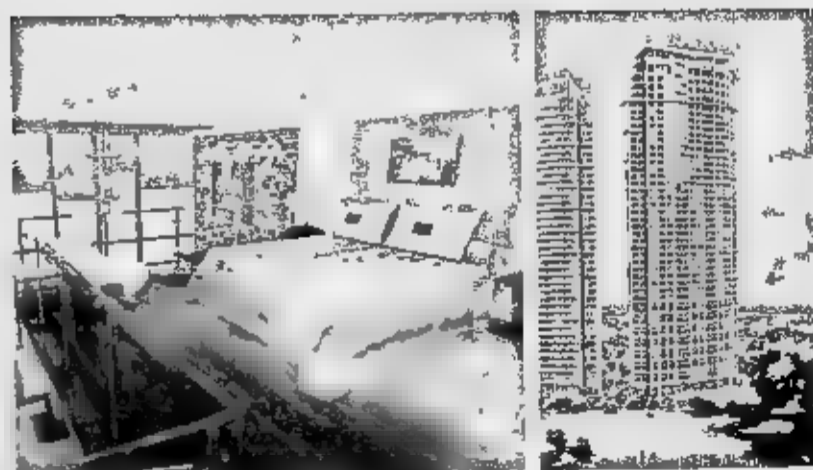


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# BUSINESSMonday

Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

## Teamwork makes teams work

### A CEO who only wants his way, should just resign

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

IT WAS ONLY IN THE past 10 years that corporate leaders have realized what team sports coaches have known for a long time: Great teams—not great individuals—bring great results.

Time was when having a bevy of high-flying individuals on the payroll was enough for companies to trump competition. Teams were unnecessary. One-man or -woman shows were all that mattered.

Those days, fortunately or unfortunately, are gone.

Vicente Reyes, coach of the Philippine national basketball team and chief executive of consultancy firm Coachcom, Inc., tells the *Inquirer* that, as companies operate from different loca-

tions—with employees spending more of their time on the field and the business model shifting to favor those that continuously innovate—having a solid team becomes more crucial to success.

It is from having that sense of belonging to a winning team—where members, no matter the position, know that they all have an important role to play in reaching a goal—that individuals can be trusted to do what is right and go the extra mile for their company, no matter where they are.

A chief executive officer who insists on doing things his way, or no way at all, will be better off signing his own resignation letter.

But sports coaches will be the first to say that building teams is far from easy, and that having a rich pool of individual talent does not guarantee chemistry.

Think Real Madrid of Spain

and the yellow and blue-clad Selecao of Brazil.

Both football teams were like constellations with so many superstars on their side, yet both failed miserably to live up to expectations.

It has been years since Real Madrid won a major football championship in Europe. The Brazilian team, an early favorite in the recent World Cup tournament, with players so good it can field two world-class teams, was booted out of from the competition by a far less talent-laden French team.

The reason? As analysts say, Real Madrid and Brazil were more about individuals than teams.

Contrast their performance with the Detroit Pistons of 2004.

None of the team's top players figured in the list of top scorers, and yet it brought home the most coveted prize in professional bas-

ketball, the National Basketball Association championship.

The same is true for the Coca-Cola Tigers of 2002, coached then by Reyes, that won the All-Filipino crown.

That team made history by being the first team of the Philippine Basketball Association to win a championship on its first year, despite being the shortest in the league and being the only one with no top draft pick in its roster.

It went on and made it to all three finals the following year, winning the third conference title.

Their common denominator? Solid teamwork.

Reyes says in a briefing with the *Inquirer* business staff that most teams fail to be like the Pistons or Coca-Cola because of five "dysfunctions" first discussed by Pat Lencioni: Absence of trust; fear of conflict; lack of commit-

TEAMWORK/82-2



REYES: Most teams fail because of five "dysfunctions"

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## Rick Warren and a higher purpose

Bill Gates, Warren Buffett, and former Citibank CEO Sandy Weill are people we look up to, as their driven lives have brought them to a level of earthly luxury that we desire.

There is another reason for us to admire them, however, and that is that all three have made decisions to devote large portions of their personal fortunes to charity without seeking anything in return.

Their lives are not merely driven, their actions are being shaped by a higher purpose.

This sort of transformation is the essential message of Rick Warren's "The Purpose-Driven Life."

Beyond being a self-help book, "The Purpose-Driven Life" is a spiritual guide, a life-changing and easy-to-follow daily reminder that allows us to find meaning in the

daily things we do.

Replete with many humane lessons from biblical accounts, this book speaks with practical and edifying wisdom. One would have to be a hardened atheist to not be persuaded by Warren's message that each of our lives was created to have a covenant with God for a life in eternity.

Warren advises that "there is a need to fully comprehend that there is more to life than just the here and now" that will color how one handles every relationship, task and circumstance. Suddenly, many activities, goals and even problems that seemed so important will appear trivial and unworthy of one's attention.

On the assumption that the reader believes in God, Warren posits that our lives must be lived for God's pleasure and proceeds to expound on the meaning of

## MAPPING THE FUTURE

Ballazar N. Endriga



words that we thought we knew. For instance:

Worship: "must not be half-hearted and hypocritical, or of empty words, insincere praise and stale prayers but with passion and commitment."

Fellowship: "mutuality is the heart of fellowship: building of reciprocal relationships, sharing responsibilities and helping each other" you can't have fellowship without forgiveness" never hold grudges, etc."

Conflicts and their resolution: "Blessed are those who work for peace - those who seek to resolve

conflict" running from a problem, pretending one doesn't exist, or being afraid to talk about it is actually cowardice."

Peacemaking is also not appeasement. Always giving in, acting like a doormat, and allowing others to always run over you is not what Jesus had in mind. He refused to back down on many issues, standing his ground firmly in the face of evil opposition."

Gossip: "Gossip is passing an information when you are neither part of the problem nor part of the solution. Listening to gossip is like stolen property and it makes you just as guilty of the crime. People who gossip to you will gossip about you. They cannot be trusted."

Warren's message is simple but elusive in the rush of the world we live in. This best-seller, ingeniously divided into 40 short (av-

erage six pages) chapters is designed to be read slowly and conscientiously - one chapter a day to allow for introspection and reaction to the possible implications of each chapter's message for one's life.

Each chapter leads the reader to ponder on a nugget of truth, quotes a bible verse to remember - and memorize - and a question to help one to think about the implications of what one has just read and hopefully imbibed.

Read with purposeful intent and a conscious effort to find meaning in what remains of each of our lives, Warren's book can only lead each of us to a life devoted to the betterment of our society, our country and the world we live in.

If we cannot be like Christ, we can at least be as generous or charitable as Bill Gates, Warren

Buffett or Sandy Weill.

Dr. Rick Warren will speak on the topic "Stewardship of Influence and Affluence" during the Dinner Forum for CEOs and Business Leaders organized by the Management Association of the Philippines on July 25, Tuesday, from 6:00 PM to 9:30 PM at the Rizal Ballroom of Makati Shangri-La.

His wife, Kay Warren, will be the Guest Speaker at the MAP General Membership Meeting on July 24, Monday, at 12:00 noon at the Grand Ballroom of Hotel Inter-Continental Manila. For inquiries, please call the MAP Secretariat at 751-1149 to 52.

(The author is Managing Director of the MAP Research and Development Foundation. Feedback at map@globenet.com.ph) g/mapping/2006/mapping/bendriga(7July2006).doc:mel

## When buying property, go for a developer with track record

THE PROPERTY MARKET IS GROWING 20 to 40 percent, according to third party researches, and publications are abuzz with colorful and sassy ads of property developments.

Is it a time of great buys? Or can this also be a time of disappointments that can last a lifetime?

Rex A. Mendoza, Ayala Land senior vice president for corporate sales and marketing, says that in a period of boom, the buying public's experiences can be very good. It can also turn the opposite, he says, as he cautions buyers, against over-exuberance and being taken mainly by attractive brochures and flashy websites that are full of promises but are short of assurances on the track record of its developers.

Mendoza says that even in this situation of a property upswing, it is still most prudent for buyers to put in their lifetime's savings and cast their dreams for quality homes with developers of proven track record. He states, "Due diligence of buyers in checking out developers' backgrounds is a must in choosing homes, lots, condominiums and real property in general."

An essential fact to check out is how developers fared when the real estate property was down. Did they finish their projects? If they did, were they on as time and was the quality that they promised delivered?

Their fate as corporations during the late '90s, when all of Asia reeled from economic disaster, is a good period to review, he says. In Ayala Land's case, according to Mendoza, that regional financial turmoil was hurdled with integrity.

Today, Ayala Land holds the record of finishing all its residential condominium projects lined up at that crisis period—The Regency and One, Two and Three Salcedo—while the rest halted their ongoing projects. It continues to hold sacred its commitments for timely delivery with utmost concern for customer satisfaction, adds Mendoza.

"To stress how much Ayala Land values the trust that is leveled upon it by its loyal customers, it finished the projects still in over-compliance with the structural requirements imposed by government regulations," Mendoza notes.

For the first quarter of this year, Ayala Land and its subsidiaries in residential property development have already booked and closed P2 billion worth of units which is the same level of bookings it registered for the whole of 2005, he cited.

The subsidiaries include Community Innovations, which responds to home needs of young and dynamic urban professionals, and Avida, which provides affordable homes for those who value the essentials of quality living.

A sizable portion of Ayala Land buyers these days are Filipinos migrants and overseas Filipino workers. They are Filipinos based in the US, Dubai, Middle East, London, Canada and other parts of Europe. "Unlike the boom of the nineties, the Philippine property sector is now enjoying a broader base of investors, with direct real investments coming from Filipino communities abroad," Mendoza states.

With this, the industry upswing is expected to last up to five years, he opines.

Thus, it becomes even more crucial for families of buyers, who are the ones who refer the properties available here, to be aware of the importance of choosing reputable property developers to avoid pitfalls and misfortunes with buyers' hard-earned money.

Other factors they have to look at are the developers' concern in meeting the actual needs of buyers in terms of accessibility, security and basic utilities. With Ayala Land, there are no short cuts in providing long-term security through a good road network, efficient water, drainage and sewer systems and provision of community

Unwittingly, as many buyers can be visually lured by fancy designs that border on fantasy, it is best to take a few steps back to check whether the designs of subdivisions and individual units actually meld with function. "At Ayala Land, planning is a vital process to ensure that property designs harmonize with function," Mendoza stresses.

At the same time, it is also noteworthy that Ayala Land communities flourish, as they are near good schools, transport networks, churches, commercial establishments, and leisure and recreational facilities. "With all these factors in place, it should not be surprising why the value of Ayala Land properties continue to increase over time," he adds.

Against the backdrop of achievements through the years, Ayala Land's track record soars ahead.

It has pooled knowledge in a diverse range of successful endeavors - from the building and continuous enhancement of the premier financial district in Makati, to the introduction of innovative commercial centers with distinctive entertainment appeals.

This record stretches further to the building of office and residential landmarks, both high-rise and horizontal, and to the enrichment of residential offerings for many people in many parts of the country.

"Ayala Land's achievements are anchored on people's trust and in no way does it compromise this," Mendoza states.

## Not just repairs at this computer shop

MEILY ESTORQUE IS NOT your average computer repair shop owner.

His shop is not limited with PC terminals laid open for repair work, with computer parts and accessories on the side. Instead, his shop in Dasmariñas, Cavite, looks more like a Smart Bro outlet, painted neatly in blue with a streamer of Smart's wireless broadband service displayed prominently.

That's because this 33-year-old Industrial Education graduate also sells Smart Bro. This is on top of Smart Load, which his wife, Maria Vihta, started selling.

He is one of hundreds of Smart retailers who will have a chance to start internet shops via Barangay Bro, a livelihood program built around Smart Bro and offered by Smart Communications Inc. (Smart).

To Meily, this is a dream come true. His interest in electronics had led him to work for a computer supplier instead of going the route of Industrial Education graduates and teaching. The troubleshooting and repair skills that he learned on the job was crucial in his decision to open a small computer repair shop.

Now, he gets to branch out into the Internet business. With just P2,600, which he pays monthly for 12 months, he gets a brand new personal computer with licensed Microsoft operating system plus Internet connectivity via Smart.

Smart Bro is Smart's wireless broadband service. It is a high-speed broadband Internet connection that uses the nationwide cellular network of Smart to wirelessly deliver Internet service to a subscriber's PC. Currently available to Smart subscribers at P999 a month,



MEILY Estorque

Smart Bro is up to seven times faster than dial-up, or 384kbps.

Meily qualifies for Barangay Bro since his monthly Smart Load sales average P20,000. Hence, with Smart Bro and a PC, he can set up shop at his computer repair shop and start charging customers by the hour for Internet surfing, online gaming, network gaming and Microsoft Office use. He can also start charging for printing services.

The P2,600 monthly plan covers not only Smart Bro connectivity and computer hardware, but also installation of equipment like outdoor unit antenna, marketing support like flyers and banners, welcome kit and troubleshooting guidelines as well as other technical support like a hotline for broadband/connection problems.

A Smart Bro retailer and an avid user, Meily knows the value of fast and reliable wireless connectivity since he uses the Internet to communicate with his brother in the US via e-mail, instant messaging or

Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP).

His kids, Christian David and Christopher John, ages 4 and 2 respectively, are also computer literate, already surfing the Internet for popular children's sites like Disney.

Meily thanks Smart which, he said, has been a good economic benefactor to his family, starting with the e-load business in 2003.

"When I noticed that my wife, who was selling Smart Load, was matching what I was earning in a Makati City-based office job, I decided to give the e-load business a closer look," he said.

He gave up his job, went into computer repair and at the same time widened their Smart Load clientele by networking with old friends, visiting them in their offices and selling to their friends in turn. He also approached companies at the nearby First Cavite Industrial Estate (FCIE) and at the market, where his store is located.

"I realized that my capital was not just money, but

friends," he said.

Meily said that initial earnings averaged P30,000 a month, but that has since settled at P22,000 a month now that there are more Smart retailers eating up the market.

That's why he appreciates new services like Smart Bro, which give him an opportunity to earn additional income. Meily is one of Smart's top Smart Bro retailers in southeast Luzon, averaging 30 Smart Bro activations a month.

A fast learner, Meily read up on Smart Bro, attended a seminar to fully understand how the technology works then quickly gathered a "marketing team" of about 15 friends.

"We went door-to-door, visiting subdivisions and offices to distribute flyers about Smart Bro. We considered it good enough if we got 50 applications from 1,000 flyers that we sent out," he said.

Meily now counts some 200 members among his "marketing team."

On his own, he also printed WiFi shirts and stickers for his service jeep and van, put up a billboard and gave his store a new look with the Smart Bro streamer prominently displayed.

"Aside from earning from the activations, I get to introduce wireless broadband into the lives of people who need connectivity. Maraming families ng OFWs dito sa south Luzon," he said.

He is excited that Smart Bro can be made available to more people, now that Smart has made it easier for qualified retailers like him to offer the product themselves via Barangay Bro.

"I didn't end up teaching as my course dictated, but I can say that I still promoted learning in my own way," he said.

## Teamwork makes teams work

From page B2-1

ment, avoidance of accountability, and inattention to results.

There is an absence of trust when the members are not willing to work with each other because they fear that their teammate will stab them in the back, so to speak, and take all the credit for group effort.

And because there is that lack of trust, team members fail to engage in "productive conflict," which allows them to freely air their contrasting views without fear of personal recriminations.

Opposite of production conflict is "artificial harmony" where team members seem to get along on the surface, or blindly agree to their superior's views, hiding what they really feel in their hearts.

"Rather than have a lively debate, members will rather not talk to preserve that artificial harmony," Reyes explains.

This also means that the members will just go through the motions of do-

ing what the others say they should, without really buying into the idea or goal. Thus, they will not give their all to make sure that the goal is accomplished.

Reyes says this is where the lack of commitment comes in.

"One can never commit to something he does not believe in," Reyes says.

"Team members will have to buy into the project or else they will just go through the motions of the job."

The fourth dysfunction of a team is avoidance of accountability, which

refers to that behavior where no member wants to step up and take responsibility for their actions. They will rather pass the buck.

Again, this stems from lack of commitment to a task.

Finally, there's the inattention to results.

Reyes says there are few things worse than having team members who are more focused on their own individual performance, without caring for the results sought by the team.

He says that in basketball teams, coaches do not want to have players who do not care if the team wins as long as his score sheet shows how many shots he made.

"What we want is to have individuals who want to have individual

goals out for the entire team's welfare, not just their own," he says.

Most teams, whether in sports or in the corporate world, suffer from any

one or all of these dysfunctions that hinder them from unleashing their potential.

But there are ways to start getting out of the rut, Reyes says, and it starts from building a high level of trust. Without it, nothing else will be achieved.

He also emphasizes the big role that the team leader will play in fostering a relationship built on trust.

"People do what people see, so if they see that their leaders are trustworthy and willing to work with the team, they will be influenced to be the same," Reyes says.

He says the mold that created the command and control type of CEO or team leader, has long been broken. It just does not work anymore.

"People these days do not want to be handled or told what to do, but they do want to be motivated and inspired," he says.

Work on that, and a leader should be on his way to building a formidable team.



RP TEAM coach Chor Reyes

FOR PHOTO

## Franchising expo set on July 14-16

ENTREPRENEURS ARE EXPECTED TO flock to the 14th Philippine International Franchise Conference and Expo, sponsored by the Philippine Franchise Association (PFA) to be held at the World Trade Center on July 14-16.

As a way to educate entrepreneurs on franchising, Francorp Philippines will spearhead a two-fold seminar on July 15 dubbed as "The A to Z of Buying Franchise" (8:30 a.m. to 12:00 nn) and "How to Franchise your Business" (1 a.m. to 5 p.m.).

Samie Lim, PFA chair Emeritus and "father of franchising," explained the main goal of the "How to Franchise your Business" seminar is to help the businesses multiply through franchising.

For inquiries, you may call 638-3142/49/50; or 910-6544/45; or text 0917-8355530 and 0920-9610810.

## Can't afford an office? Lease one

IF YOU ARE AN ENTREPRENEUR TODAY and you want to grow a business with huge profit potential or build one at par with top industry competitors, you have to be better prepared than the rest.

### Emerging solutions

Worldmet Business Center (WBC) managing director Jack Wong said the priority goal for setting up young and fresh businesses today is to move into fully functional offices, at short notice, with potential for "overnight" expansion without the relocating requirements.

WBC is a Filipino-owned company engaged in leasing ready-to-use and fully equipped serviced offices.

Wong explained that new businesses today require increased mobility on a wider scale with enhanced service features, but, on an efficient cost. Some businesses, he said, will establish themselves first in more practical ways, then move to a more permanent ground as they come to terms with the realities of their business later on.

He said more offshore companies today are locating in this type of office accommodations to extend their office operations in various growth areas worldwide.

Wong explained that outsourcing the property requirements to independent operators proves more practical since putting up an office requires high capital outlay. It is also more efficient, he said, since one doesn't need to deal anymore with office administration issues but remain focused on the core business.

Given the growing demand of today's businesses, the search for innovation and efficiency has led to the rise of "alternative workplaces," also called offices on-demand, serviced office, business centers, virtual offices or simply instant offices, added Wong.

Office accommodations that offer instantaneous availability are starting to attract many businesses. In direct contrast to conventional offices, Wong explained that instant offices have more value-added benefits to offer, aside from flexibility. They also guarantee higher degrees of affordability that will best fit even for the startup businesses and SMEs in Metro Manila, he said.

### Yardstick for a good serviced office

A serviced office is a commercial accommodation equipped with basic office utilities including housekeeping and maintenance. Other support services are included in the rent or paid independently, also known as pay-as-used system. The office space provided can be occupied for shorter lease or even for hourly rates.

Compared to a traditional office setup, serviced office is fully furnished with tables and chairs, telephone, fax, mailbox, e-mail, courier, Internet connection or other IT support services. It also comes with an array of common facilities that can be shared among all tenants like the conference and meeting facilities, pantry or coffee area. A common reception area is also provided along with a competent receptionist.

Typically, a WBC serviced office operation allows a range of office sizes that can accommodate from one person up to 10 persons in one room. It is also possible to take a number of adjoining offices together to accommodate more persons. The office spaces can take the form of modular cubicles, full office room or virtual office setup.

Virtual office setup gives one a legitimate business identity with the use of a prestigious business address as one's own registered office and correspondence address. It serves like a long-distance office, where one need not be physically present but would still have access to its facilities and support services through modern information and communications equipment or technology.

Business centers provide the same physical amenities and services of an office such as work desks, fax machines, and computers, among others, but, only for a day or hourly rates.

How does the cost of a serviced office compare with renting a conventional office? There is a broad spectrum of serviced offices in the market today that range from providing the bare basics, up to offering high-end technology and equipment, along with a complete management team and highly personalized service.

### Find your advantage at WBC

Erick Ordóñez, WBC operations manager, said they cater primarily to small and medium enterprises (SMEs), professionals and service consultants who require virtual offices or full office space accommodations. Situated in the prime Makati district, it offers young and infant businesses the proximity to the booming opportunities in the area, Ordóñez added.

WBC has a total of eight modular workstations and 20 elegantly furnished office rooms. The average working area is anywhere from 3.6 sq.m. for a modular cubicle to a spacious 9 sq.m. for a furnished room.

Monthly lease rates range from as low as P1,200 for virtual office setup and about P8,500 for full office room setup.

WBC offers three flexible lease options to choose from: virtual office setup, modular/cubicle workstation setup, and full office room setup. Exclusive restrooms are also available in addition to common area restrooms.

Ordóñez identified other in-house professional services accessible within office reach for business support. They are available on a per-project basis or retainer basis, which include tax consultancy, accounting and bookkeeping, management advisory, business registration, legal services, real estate, architectural design and general construction, interior design, desktop publishing, customized business application, website development and design, PC preventive maintenance, insurance and finance planning, import/export, business research, secretarial and courier services.

## Banking on emotions to market its products

By Amy R. Remo

WINNING THE HEARTS OF ADULTS and children for generations, Walt Disney Co. is banking on this inherent emotional affinity to market its products worldwide.

After all, virtually every kid in the world knows all about the Mickey and Minnie Mouse tandem, the Disney princesses (Cinderella, Snow White, Belle, etc.), as well as Winnie the Pooh and his friends from the Hundred Acre

Wood. And this emotional factor of the Disney brand plays largely in the early successes of the 10-month-old Hong Kong Disneyland, given its increasing attendance and occupancy levels.

Josh D'Amato, Disney's VP for sales and travel trade marketing, said that with Hong Kong Disneyland, his team focuses mainly on understanding the Asian market: what works and what doesn't, what are the barriers and what other creative ideas they can employ.

"It's not a one-size-fits-all strategy," said D'Amato, who was in Manila recently. "Adjustments have to be made in each market."

Disney parks, for instance, are customized for the market it serves.

"Explore the park and it feels different in each place, be it in Tokyo, California or Hong Kong," he added.

However, he said, it's too early for the company to make drastic changes in its strategies in order to specifically cater to each market. Such moves, he said, will have to come in later.

### Promotional efforts

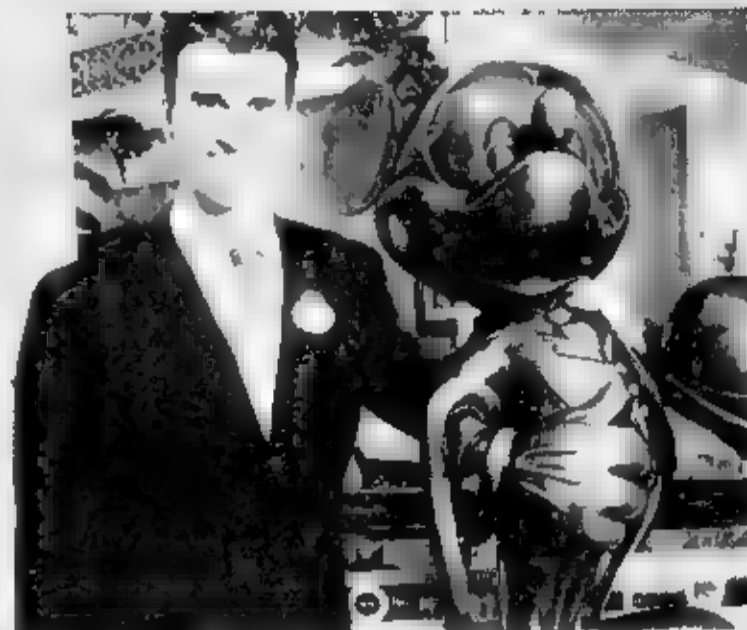
D'Amato explained that seasonality is a huge factor in assessing how to promote the park.

Each country in Asia has different national holidays, ways of booking for travel, school year calendar, travel habits and so on.

In Southern China for instance, people would often come down from the borders by themselves rather than book for a travel. Oftentimes, they would arrive in Hong Kong by midday, giving them only half a day to spend in the park.

"We came up with a promo called the 'Stay and Play for 2 days' to give a second-day incentive for guests," explained D'Amato.

By booking at the Hong Kong Disneyland Hotel or Hollywood Hotel,



JOSH D'Amato

guests who buy a ticket to visit the park on the first day will get the next day for free, plus breakfast. This promo runs from May 13 to Sept. 30, 2006.

Meanwhile, the Philippines is considered as one of Disney's biggest and most important markets given the country's inherent affinity for anything Disney.

"Here in the Philippines, we found out that travel trade (ticketing and travel agencies) has a bigger role to play in terms of booking for airline tickets, tours and hotel accommodations," said D'Amato.

If in the US, customers normally book directly, mostly through the Internet, Filipinos meanwhile book mainly by travel agents. Only recently have Filipinos started to book via the Internet.

"Seeing the value of these agents, we pour in a lot of effort in establishing trust with the travel trade groups," said D'Amato.

Disney has formed tie-ups with local retail agents such as airlines, travel agents and other forms of distribution network to help him and his team understand the needs and whims of the local market.

According to D'Amato, these groups will help them develop creative and effective strategies to localize their efforts as they will be able to provide insights in the Filipino way of traveling.

D'Amato said they want to make

each customer's Disney experience worth their every while and centavo from the booking process and until they leave the park.

In fact, Hong Kong Disneyland houses its own automated call center to easily address any queries or to assist customers in placing reservations. Tickets can also be reserved and purchased online ([www.hongkongdisneyland.com](http://www.hongkongdisneyland.com)).

### Value as edge

D'Amato reiterated that their competitive edge lies in the product itself and the value of the Disney brand.

"We don't want to compete in terms of pricing because that's not what our brand is all about," said D'Amato.

He added that their products demonstrate the value of the Disney brand and that "magical" experience one feels every time he or she goes to a Disney park.

"We make sure our parks are always fresh and that they offer something new. Markets continue to evolve and we have to adjust to those changes," explained D'Amato.

This July, Hong Kong Disneyland will open three new attractions namely the Stitch Encounter, UPO (Unbelievably Fun Objects) Zone and Autopia.

D'Amato said they are expecting guest volume to reach 5.6 million, after one year in operations.

## MOVEMENTS

### Citibank Savings new president

CITIBANK SAVINGS RECENTLY ANNOUNCED THE APPOINTMENT OF JEFFREY C. CHOA AS PRESIDENT. Citibank Savings is a member of Citigroup and an affiliate of Citibank N.A., the country's largest foreign bank.

Choa joined Citibank N.A. in 1994 and has held key positions including branch manager of Makati, its flagship retail branch in the country, and investments business head for the global consumer group. Prior to his appointment as Citibank Savings president, Choa was president of Citicorp Financial Services and Insurance Brokerage Co.

In his new assignment, Choa will oversee 36 retail branches located in key areas in Metro Manila, North and South Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao. Aside from the challenge of growing the Citibank Savings franchise, Choa will be leading an experienced team to develop and offer financial products and services targeting the mass affluent.

### J&J's new executive appointments

Grace del Rosario-Castaño was appointed president of the Asian group of companies and the head of the Asian management board effective March 1. Castaño becomes the second Filipino head of the regional organization responsible for the growing Johnson & Johnson sales and marketing team covering Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, Vietnam and the Philippines. Castaño joined Johnson & Johnson in 1990 and later became the general manager of Johnson & Johnson Indonesia in 2000. She assumed the position of president and managing director of Johnson & Johnson (Philippines) Inc. in 2002.

Zinnia S. Rivera was also named president and managing director of Johnson & Johnson (Philippines) Inc. effective March 1. Significantly, Rivera becomes the 13th head of the local company since it was incorporated in the Philippines in 1956. She is also the second Filipino to head the marketing-oriented company with a product portfolio which includes market leading brands Johnson's baby products, Modess sanitary napkins, Carefree pantyliners and wash, Neutrogena, Clean and Clear and Johnson's pure essentials. Rivera was the immediate vice president of the Johnson & Johnson regional research and development before this appointment.

### Makati Shangri-La appoints new resident manager

MAKATI Shangri-La announces the appointment of Jeremy Richard Amers as the hotel's resident manager. Amers is no stranger to the Shangri-La culture as he was previously employed at Shangri-La Pudong as the executive assistant manager-food and beverage. He possesses a solid background in food and beverage with extensive experience in the hospitality industry. His new role is to oversee all managerial aspects of operational functions and will assist the hotel's general manager in strategic business activities.

### P&A welcomes new audit partners

PUBLIC accounting firm Punongbayan & Araullo (P&A) announced recently the elevation of Mariene Bisnar and Ramilito Nafola to partner effective July 1.

In addition to her client-serving responsibilities, Bisnar was head of the firm's training group for a number of years. She has been in public accounting since she started her professional career in 1991 and has gained wide-ranging experience in the audit of local and multinational companies in various industries, including entertainment, real estate development, manufacturing and trading. She worked for a year and a half with the New York office of a leading international accounting firm, where she specialized in the audit of major real estate companies in the United States. She obtained her bachelor's degree in accountancy, cum laude, from the University of the East.

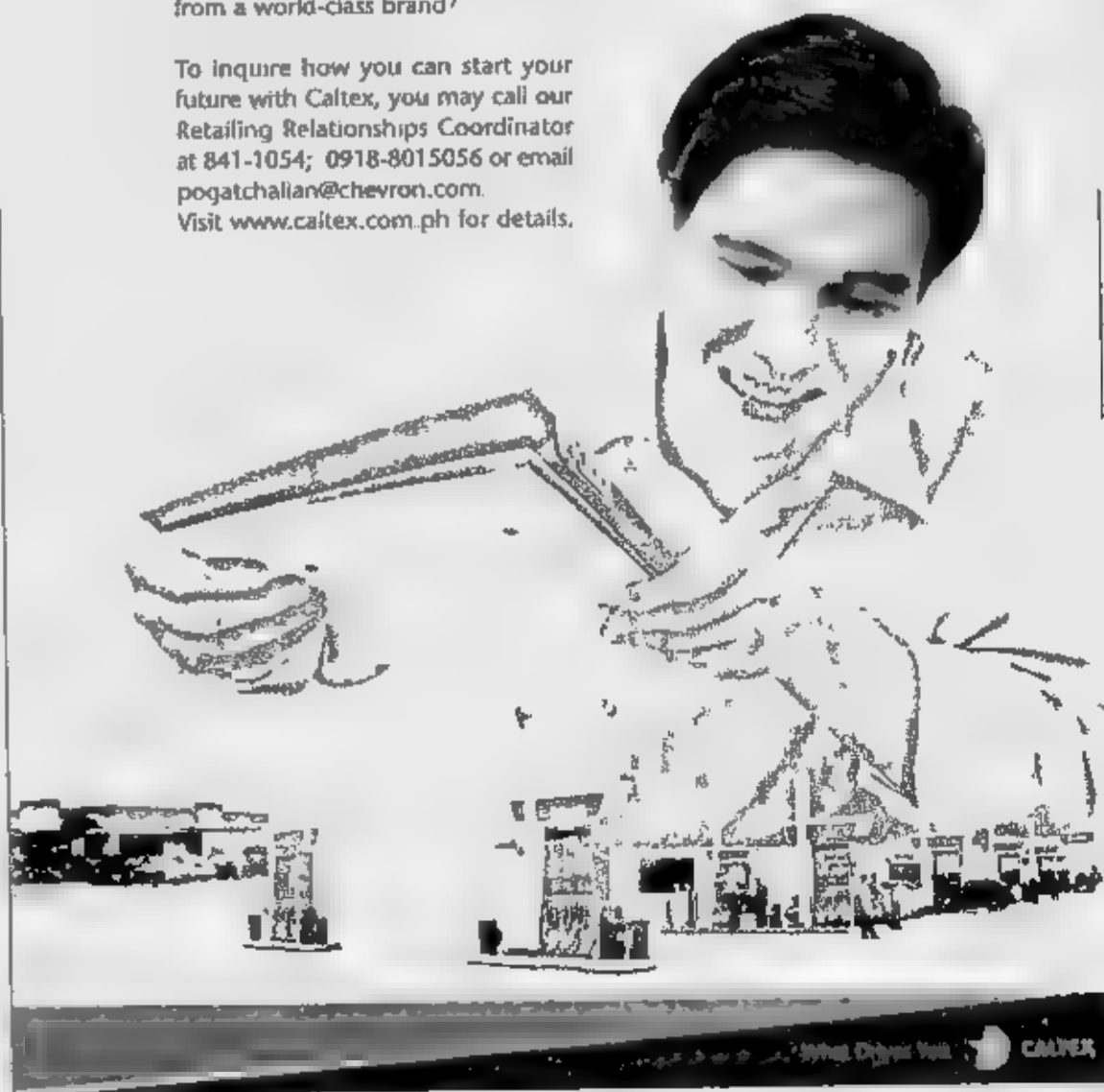
Nafola, director-in-charge of P&A's Cebu and Davao offices, has been in public accounting since 1990, when he joined the firm. He has extensive experience in audit of local and multinational companies in various industries, such as banking and finance, manufacturing, agriculture, construction, trading and real estate. He is the charter president of the Davao chapter of the Institute of Internal Auditors-Philippines. A graduate of Notre Dame University in Cotabato City, he is the 2005 recipient of the Philippine Accountancy Association's highest recognition of individual excellence.

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# BUSINESSMonday

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HYUNDAI ASIA RESOURCES, INC.

## What's in a name?

PLENTY, IF FINANCIAL CONGLOMERATE Citigroup and its banking subsidiary Citibank N.A. were to be asked.

Last week, the two companies filed an action in court to stop Citiseconline and Citisecurities, both stock brokers, from using the word "citi" in their trademarks.

The petition comes on the heels of Citiseconline's plan to hold its initial public offering this month.

Simply stated, the issue in this case is whether the word "citi" that appears in the broker companies' corporate name is deceptively similar to that of Citigroup's registered trademarks.

The dispute is not surprising. Companies

**Corporate Securities Info**  
**Raul Palabrica**

often go to great lengths, and incur a lot of expenses in the process, to protect their corporate names from being appropriated by third parties.

Like human beings, corporations consider their name the sweetest word in the world.

### Deceptive

The rule on the use of names by corpora-

tions is clearly spelled out in the Corporation Code.

Corporations cannot use names that are identical or deceptively or confusingly similar to that of an existing corporation, or are protected by law, or are patently deceptive, confusing or contrary to existing law.

The ban is aimed at preventing the public from being confused or misled by companies that have identical or similar names.

For companies that have gained a lot of goodwill from their names, the unauthorized use of their identification by other companies constitutes unfair competition.

Thus, in one case, the Supreme Court affirmed an order of the Securities and Exchange Commission directing "Universal Mills Corporation" to change its name because it was confusingly and deceptively similar to that of "Universal Textile Mills, Inc." which was registered earlier.

In another instance, the name "Tropiflora, Inc." was disallowed because it was confusingly similar to that of a previously registered corporation called "Tropical Flora (Philippines).".

### Generic

But that rule was not applied to the word "Lyceum" which some educational institutions in the provinces use as part of their corporate name.

The petition of Lyceum of the Philippines, a school founded by the Laurel family, to stop other schools from using the word "Lyceum" to identify themselves was denied by the highest tribunal.

The court ruled that the subject word has a generic meaning, i.e., a school or institution of learning which traces its roots to ancient Grecian period.

Besides, there is no confusion in identity because the other schools that use that word have added a geographic name to it, such as, Lyceum of Aparri and Western Pangasinan Lyceum.

The SEC has laid down some guidelines on what words can and cannot be used in corporate names.

For example, if a proposed name is similar to that of a registered business entity, that name should contain at least one distinctive word that is different from that already registered.

The name of an internationally known foreign corporation or one similar to it cannot be appropriated by a local corporation without the consent of the former.

If the full name of a person forms part of the corporate name, the consent of that person or, if he is already dead, his heirs has to be obtained first before the use of the name can be allowed.

### Specific names

Also, certain words or phrases are not available for general use.

Thus, the words "Finance," "Bank," "Building and Loan Association," "Rural Bank," "Investment" or words of similar meaning are not allowed for companies that are not engaged in financing, banking or investment, as the case may be.

The emblem, official seal and name of the United Nations, both in its full or abbreviated form, cannot be used for commercial or business purposes.

The words "Asean," "Calabarzon" and "Philippines 2000" are not permitted to form part of the corporate name of private companies.

If a corporation wants to add the word "National" in its name, it has to come up with good reasons to justify its request, otherwise the SEC will disapprove it.

The SEC is wary that the subject word may give the impression to the public that the corporation is either a government agency or a government-owned or -controlled corporation.

Interestingly, in 1975, then President Marcos issued a decree stating that all banks, other than the Philippine National Bank and those banks whose name already includes the word "National," are barred from using that word.

Going back to the "citi" case, unless the contending parties are able to enter into an amicable settlement, this case (like many other similar incidents in the past) is expected to go all the way up to the Supreme Court. (For feedback, please write to <rpalabrica@inquirer.com.ph>.)

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Topics include installment sales as a marketing technique; the various aspect of installment sale; HIRB and other rules on installment sales; the financial aspect of installment sales. Call at 681-0928 or 0916-426-9174.

# BUSINESSMonday

Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

## Portrait of a politician as a farmer

### How one created a model farm from a patch of scraggy land

By Gabriel Hidalgo Bordado  
Contributor

ACCORDING TO FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT, true individual freedom cannot exist without economic security and independence; people who are hungry and out of job are the stuff of which dictatorships are made of. For Ulysses Eul Salvino, two-term municipal councilor of San Lorenzo Ruiz, a small farming community 12 kilometers south of Daet, Camarines Norte, resolutions and ordinances are not enough.

Not that he loathes legislative work (he, in fact, authored several landmark measures addressing the concerns of various sectors) but the young councilor just cannot stand the sight of idle lands. It's a pity that thousands starve in our country despite the presence of arable but idle lands. We just need to till these lands and we will never be hungry, the councilor averred.

#### Carving a model farm

Since 1994, when Eul graduated from the Camarines Sur State Agricultural College (CSSAC), he has been tilling his mother's one-hectare farm lot in San Lorenzo Ruiz. Far from being an ideal site, the farm with its slopes and hilly areas, would always pose as a challenge, even for somebody with a background in agriculture. But Eul was grimly determined to transform it into something productive, a farmer's haven, to send a clear signal to his townmates that farming, done the right way, could lead to food security and bring some tidy profits on the side.

It was, of course, tough at the outset. People were laughing behind Eul's back. For how could you convince them that a patch of scraggy land dotted by stunted coconut trees and overrun by weeds and cogonal growth would be worth tilling?

But Eul, barely in his 20s then, had clear cut "ideas on how to nurture his mother's non-descript lot into full productivity." His training at



SALVINO devised a system ensuring year round egg production while wife Ningning (inset), shows off robust snap beans production in the vegetable section of their farm.

CSSAC served him well, allowing him to explore principles in horticulture, poultry and livestock raising, agronomy and even agricultural engineering. He also experimented with integrated farming systems and before long, he was ready to harvest the fruits of his labor making his detractors literally bite the dust of their idle lands. The Department of Agriculture (DA) recognized Eul's achievements by conferring on him the Outstanding Young Farmers award during its 77th anniversary.

The DA souvenir program described Eul's early struggles: By his own hands, Ulysses carved, leveled and filled contours of his sparsely planted coconut farmland according to his design based on the crops he intended to plant, and the animals and fishes he aimed to raise.

#### Sustaining the gains

Eul sustained the gains and breakthroughs

he had made and doggedly pursued his vision of establishing a model farm, showcasing what technology and a little help from government institutions could do to put what used to be an abstraction (economic security) in the realm of the doable. In 2001, Eul ran for the local council. His campaign was anchored on his veritable gospel of productivity and food security. And the people of San Lorenzo Ruiz responded by catapulting him to a second term. He also married in 2003 his college sweetheart Josefina Ningning Lomenano, who shares with him the passion for farming.

Never ever resting on his laurels, Eul, with the full backing of his wife, continues to innovate and upgrade his farm. With corn now as his main crop, Eul has ventured into poultry production with some 1,000 broilers and 700 layers under his care. To ensure a constant supply of eggs even during the rainy season, Eul ingeniously devised a system using

taraulin and plastic sheets to stabilize the temperature in the coops sheltering the layers.

#### Breaking new grounds

Optimizing the use of every available space in his farm, Eul is also into livestock raising (and pasture development), vegetable growing (pechay, tomatoes, eggplants, snapbeans, peanuts and cucumber are the mainstays) and fishpond development. His rambutan and citrus trees, which grow well under the coconut palms, bear abundant fruits during their respective seasons. Nothing is wasted in Eul's farm "even the manure (used as fertilizers) and the lowly weeds (transformed into soft brooms)."

Councilor Salvino has, for all intents and purposes, made his point: that food security is good politics. (The author is the Vice Mayor of Naga City in Bicol.)

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Editor Leo Magno

## IT certification turns college dropout into a CEO

By Alexander Villafania  
Contributor

THE BOOMING IT INDUSTRY IN THE Philippines is creating more jobs for Filipino college graduates. In particular, the business process outsourcing companies, largely composed of call center operators, are looking for 500,000 new employees in the next four years. This demand is enticing more students to aim for a seat in a call center or a BPO business, especially with promises of big paychecks.

However, there are a few Filipino students who look at the IT industry in a long-term and much more lucrative perspective. Instead of just being a paid employee for a company, why not own the company instead?

Take for example Ma-an Madrasto, a college dropout by 17 who later became an entrepreneur, owning a web development company by the time she turned 26. Her company, Infoteq Business Solutions Services (www.infoteq-online.com), was

established in September 2005 and is now handling several projects, including the website of the Philippine Constructors Association (www.phconstruct.com).

Madrasto had her first encounter with the Internet in the mid-1990s when the Philippines got connected to the Internet. Prior to that, Madrasto had no interest with the computer and thought of it as just a big geeky box.

"Basically I thought the computer was boring until I discovered the Internet. We didn't have a computer at home so I'd be at the Internet café the whole day. I didn't go to school. I'd just click on free web builders, and soon learned programming basics on my own. Everybody thought it was cool when I distributed business cards with my pager number, e-mail address and my own website," Madrasto said.

It was then when she realized that the Internet was a major business arena where she could convert her interests into real money.

But Madrasto's entrepreneurial begin-

nings were not without its problems and her parents were not as enthusiastic about her dropping out of school and pursuing her goals of becoming a web developer. She constantly debated with her parents; her vision against their beliefs that a college education was necessary. Eventually, her parents conceded and let her build her business.

"It was easy money, since at the time there were only a few people who could develop websites. My projects back in 1996 had a maximum of two to three pages and I charged P1,000 per page," Madrasto said.

The Philippine Constructors Association, where her father worked, was one of her first clients. She managed the group's website for P100 per hour. The PCA has been her client ever since.

Incidentally, Madrasto realized that she had to get IT certification if she were to expand her business. In one incident, a multinational company passed on an attractive contract to someone else when

they found out that Madrasto did not have the proper IT credentials.

"I realized the real value of education when I was already in business. That was a P100,000 contract and I could have finished it in two weeks," she said.

That setback led her to enroll at the Informatics Computer Institute where she finished two modules of the Certified Internet Professional Program. Afterwards, she officially put up Infoteq Web Solutions, her first company.

She later pursued a diploma in studies, also at Informatics. Having learned more about web development, Madrasto redeveloped Infoteq Web Solutions into Infoteq Business Solutions that provided more comprehensive web services such as advertising, branding, system security consulting, graphics and multimedia design.

The company recently bagged the contract to conduct training modules of the Primavera Project Planner, a project monitoring software, as well as the marketing franchise of Live On Visual Communica-

tion System, a subscription-based Japanese video conferencing solution.

"We are into fully customizable solutions because we want to adjust to clients' needs. That's why we are positioning Infoteq Business Solutions and Services as the one-stop shop for all your business needs," Madrasto said.

Just last May, Madrasto finally did what her parents had always wished for—to graduate. She took her oath along with other members of Informatics class 2006.

"I wasn't even planning to join the graduation ceremonies, but then my dad told me that when I grow old, maybe I'd regret missing out on this important event," she said.

Having earned her diploma, Madrasto is now more focused on her business and is urging students to explore entrepreneurship rather than just becoming an employee. On the one hand, she would not recommend being a college dropout, while on the other hand, she suggests that students take up a course that fit their goals.

## 'Serious' online gamers increasing in RP

Alexander Villafania  
Contributor

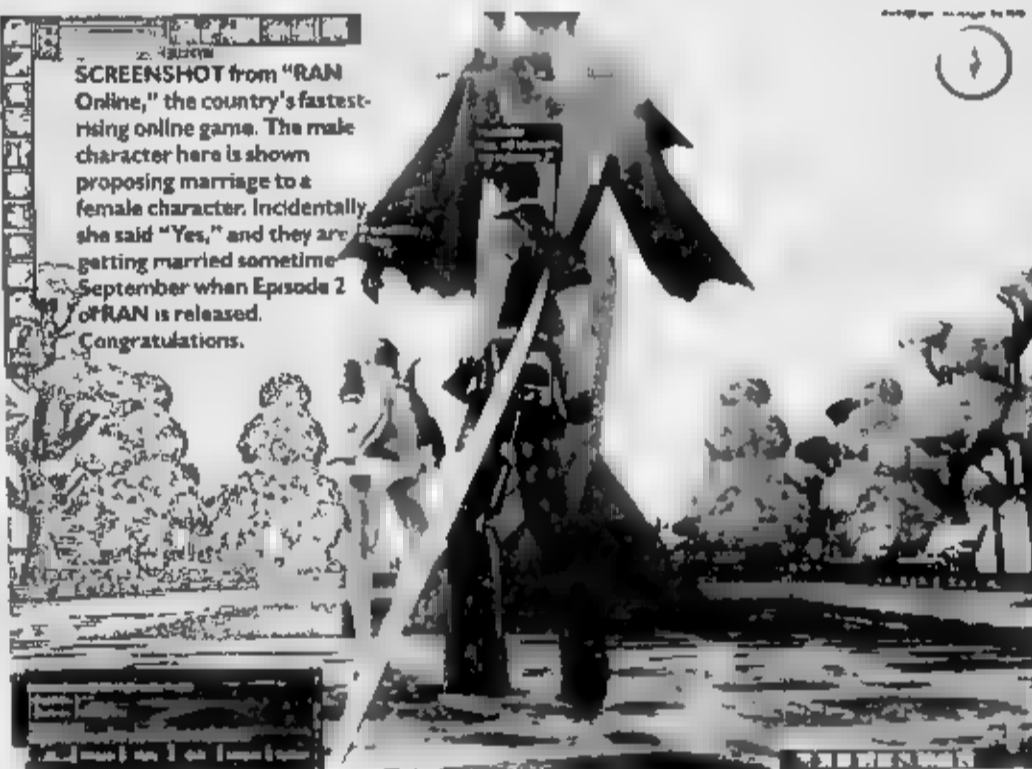
"DEMPZ" IS A FRESHMAN FROM Don Bosco Technical Institute in Makati City. He usually plays RAN Online at the Extreme Gaming Grounds in Glorietta with several friends, some of whom play other games. An avid gamer, Dempz spends nearly two hours playing RAN at the game shop but he frequently plays at home.

"I play an average of two hours per day, three during weekends," he says.

But Dempz plays not only RAN. Dempz claims to have played nearly all of the serious games released so far. Not including Ragnarok or its predecessor, Ozworld, he's played MU Online, Tantra, Khan and RP Online.

"I've barely played casual games because they don't give me as much thrill playing with or against other people online," said Dempz. "Besides, I could meet up with classmates or friends through online games even when I'm at home."

Dempz is just one of an estimated one million online gamers who have played serious online games. Three years since the first online game came to the Philippines, nearly a dozen companies have introduced their own game so far, expecting to catch the wave of potential business that these would bring. Because of the size of the Philippine market, some of these online game distributors have divided the market into "casual"



SCREENSHOT from "RAN Online," the country's fastest-growing online game. The male character here is shown proposing marriage to a female character. Incidentally she said "Yes," and they are getting married sometime September when Episode 2 of RAN is released. Congratulations.

gamers and "serious" gamers. But it is to the latter where the bulk of the market belongs.

According to research firm IDC, the serious gaming community could grow bigger in the coming years. Most of the \$15.5 million revenues from the Philippine online game business came from the serious games, which is loosely described as hack-and-slash role-playing games. Serious games

have their own game economies such as collecting virtual currencies, weapons, armor and mystical items that improve a character's performance.

But who is really on top of the serious game industry? There are several claims from the online game distributors.

Level-Up, the first to introduce online games in the Philippines, claims that its RP Online, intro-

duced last year, already has 500,000 registered players. Level-Up's Chief Operating Officer Sheila Pao said they monitor an average of 6,000 concurrent users (number of players playing at a given time), peaking to 8,000.

RAN Online, distributed by E-Games, claims to have 700,000 registered players, with average concurrent users at 15,000, peaking at 20,000 concurrent users. E-

Games COO Steve Tsao said that, in RAN, there are rare instances of "bots" (automated application that plays a game without human intervention).

"We absolutely discourage playing of bots because they take away the essence of playing. And for the record, what the other game distributors have achieved in a year, RAN achieved it in three months," he said.

There is also MU Online, one of the first serious online games in the country. Distributed by Digital Media Exchange, the company's president, Jojo Anonuevo, said they don't use the registered number of users as a measurement as it does not reflect actual player figures.

"Even if you have registered users some of these accounts don't get played anyway."

So instead, he said, DME relies on concurrent users.

"We peak at 70,000 concurrent users per day. But by comparison, our registered users are in five-digit figures."

Another early entrant to the serious game business is Skyblade. Distributed by Z-Zone, Olive Bolico, marketing supervisor for Z-Zone, said they have so far 800,000 registrants and an average of 5,000 concurrent users.

"We've been doing a lot of marketing activities including monthly cash and item prizes that's why Skyblade is growing."

It would be difficult to identify which serious online game really is at the top. One way to measure

it is through the number of players at Internet cafés, particularly Netopia, which has nearly 200 branches nationwide. Although they did not give the exact figures, Netopia gave the top online games played in their branches. Leading the pack is RP Online, followed by Pangya (a casual game), Ragnarok, Khan, MU Online, Freestyle (another casual game about basketball) and Skyblade.

On the other hand, Netopia noted that rating does not represent the entire industry since most online gamers still play from their homes. Instead, Netopia and perhaps most other Internet cafés, still cater to network gaming with the likes of Warcraft III, Counterstrike and Command & Conquer.

True enough, Dempz, who is found playing RAN Online at EGG, said he rarely plays online games at Internet shops.

"It's mostly from home and even my friends play from their homes," Dempz said.

When asked what he thinks is the number one serious online game for him, his response: "For me it's RAN, but I sometimes play RP Online because a lot of my classmates are there. Maybe Khan because that was what I first played. Honestly, I'm not really sure."

One thing is for sure though. The number of online gamers in the country is rising, and the number of companies offering their respective online games proves there is a maturing business in what was once considered child's play.

## Program connects Davao del Sur town to the Internet

By Alexander Villafania  
Contributor

THE SMALL FARMING TOWN OF Magsaysay in Davao del Sur does not have a single telephone landline.

Although barely 21 kilometers away from Digos City, the town's farmers rely largely on door-to-door communications to get news about the outside world. Occasionally, a few residents send text messages through their mobile phones—if there's an available signal.

Recently, however, the town's few hundred residents finally became connected to other towns of Davao and to the rest of the world through collaborative efforts by the Open Academy for Philippine Agriculture (Opapa), the University of Southern Mindanao and Philippine Rice Research Institute (Philrice).

Magsaysay town is the first site of the "Konekted Na!" (Now Connected) program that aims to open new communication opportunities to small farming communities through

wireless interconnections.

Its proponents say the project can be replicated in other remote farming areas that do not have basic telecommunications facilities.

Under the Konekted Na! project, several of Magsaysay town's schools and cooperatives connect to a wireless Internet link through a shared backbone installed in Digos City.

Among the cooperatives and schools that are wirelessly linked are the Barayan National High School, Department of Education North Elementary School and South Elementary School, Holy Cross of Magsaysay school, Magsaysay Academy, the Magsaysay Farmers Multipurpose Cooperative and the Badagoy Irrigators Association.

The connection features voice-over-Internet Protocol (VOIP) capabilities to allow the town's residents to call regular landline phones in Davao del Sur through the Internet.

The Konekted Na! project is also part of the Opapa's ongoing nationwide computerization project aimed at teaching agricultural and

forestry experts and farmers to use the Internet both for keeping up with the latest agricultural trends and for commercial trading of goods.

The Opapa has also just finished the first nationwide Knowledge Networking for Enterprising Agricultural Communities (Kag-net) project that utilized modified information technology buses as mobile classrooms for farmer and agricultural worker training.

Opapa director Roger Barroga said the purpose of Konekted Na! was to convince local government units (LGUs) to consider using wireless means of communications for municipalities that lack infrastructure. Likewise, he said the Opapa is willing to help LGUs that are hoping to implement similar programs.

"Lucky for us, the interest for such a project is really high, especially in extremely rural areas. By using wireless technology, farmers would be able to keep up with the trends in farming techniques and become self-reliant."

## Political tension in Asia driving IT money to RP

Erwin Oliva  
Contributor

SINGAPORE—INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY investments in manufacturing are likely to move to the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam due to the political tensions between China and Japan, the missile testing in North Korea, and the slow down of Japanese manufacturing investments in China, executives from Hewlett Packard (HP) said in an interview with reporters.

"The Philippines is back in the radar of manufacturing companies," said Kumar Narayanan, general manager of Manufacturing and Distribution Industries of HP's Technology Solutions Group for Asia Pacific and Japan.

The executive said about a third of the computer maker's overall business comes from providing technology and services to manufacturing and distribution companies in this region.

In the Philippines, customers include Procter and Gamble, Toyota, Intel, San Miguel Corp., and Pepsi Co., the executive added. Manufacturing companies in Asia Pacific are expected to expand their operations this year, which means new investments in information technology, the HP executive said.

The oil and gas sector is now the biggest spender on IT in the Asia Pacific region, followed by the semiconductor industry which is

building new plants in the region.

While China continues to enjoy a bigger share of investments in manufacturing, the HP executives said the recent North Korea missile testing will make companies jittery, said Mitsuhiko Honda, general manager of Manufacturing and Distribution Industries of HP Asia Pacific and Japan's Technology Solutions Group.

Honda said the cost of running manufacturing plants in Japan is also getting more expensive, while government policies in China requiring manufacturers to form joint ventures with local companies is stifling growth.

The HP executive said the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam are now in a position to become possible locations of expansions in the manufacturing industry amid all these developments.

The computer maker offers various supply-chain technology and solutions, consulting, and "managed services" to manufacturing and distribution companies in Asia Pacific and Japan.

The manufacturing industry in Asia Pacific region represents 17 percent of the \$238-billion global market in 2005, figures from market research firm International Data Corp. showed.

Meanwhile, the distribution industry in the same region is about 20 percent of the \$124-billion global market last year, IDC figures noted.

# The Perfect Business Solutions

INTRODUCING THE CLIPCAST  
**Clipcast videos ready for viewing on July 12**

JULY 4, 2006—CLICKTHECITY.COM'S content has evolved. ClickTheCity is going beyond the conventional way of delivering content by providing its users with video clips, or "Clipcasts" starting July 12, it was announced by Nonong Vibar, president. Clipcasts are 3-to-5 minute video clips that will be accessible and made downloadable to all internet users. The first of the Clipcast series is Viewfinder, a weekly se-

ment that will focus on unique and interesting Metro and destination city experiences in the Philippines. Viewfinder host, Cathy Paras, will be the user's virtual tour guide around the country. Paras will take them to and through places that are the current 'buzz' around town, or perhaps to sites that have never been featured before in the raw and quirky way that savvy internet users demand of their

content providers - until now.

"ClickTheCity takes pride in keeping abreast with what technology has to offer, and Clipcasts enable ClickTheCity to harness the latest technology and to take advantage of both broadband Internet and 3G," says Vibar. The Clipcasts are made by an in-house production team spearheaded by executive producer, Jay A. Lara. "Our pilot, Viewfinder, will sit-

uate our viewers as close as possible to the experience without physically being there. The Clipcast series is one of the many ways in which ClickTheCity is keeping in-line with our aim to give our users up-to-date, rich and compelling information," says Vibhar

ClicktheCity.com is the country's definitive online and mobile entertainment and lifestyle guide, bringing up-to-

date entertainment schedules and events, as well as city-living and travel features to its millions of users on the Internet and on mobile phones. In its six years of operation ClickTheCity.com has established itself as the leading website of its kind in the Philippines, garnering millions of distinct visitors who rely on the website daily for the most accurate entertainment and lifestyle information around Metro Manila and the Philippines.

## Fuji Xerox announces Asia Pacific's 1st Apeos Partner with I-Magination Group

FUJII XEROX, THE DOCUMENT COMPANY, announced a strategic partnership with I-Magination Group, an Enterprise Content Management software and solutions provider with presence across Asia Pacific, and has appointed the company as its first Apeos Partner. With the goal of providing new value to customers, Apeos Partners are part of Fujii Xerox's new strategy to promote the building of alliances with partners to effectively utilize

ApeosPort as the gateway to connect mission-critical processes or business services. Fuji Xerox will work with I-Magination Group to offer customers an integrated and secured Information Management solution, using I-Magination's latest Microsoft® .NET-based Document WorkBench 5 through the use of all ApeosPort hardware.

The web-based Document Work Bench 5 software adopts the much-anticipated Role-Based Access Control

for improved security and economic efficiency. It allows the personalizing of access rights to each individual role within an office, ensuring that a business' sensitive and valuable content is fully protected.

Working directly from a server, Document WorkBench 5 works effortlessly with the ApeosPort series of multifunctional devices to offer a flexible office solution that enables staff to browse, directly upload and exchange

information stored on the document server from any ApensPort device.

"This strategic partnership between Fuji Xerox and I-Magination Group, a Microsoft Partner, is a perfect example of how solution providers can come together to develop and deploy security-enhanced Microsoft NET-based solutions to help businesses integrate systems more rapidly," said Daniel Ingitaray, director, Developer Platform Evangelism, Microsoft Singapore.

To know more about Fuji Xerox Philippines's Apeos document management systems (DMS) and its top-notch hardware and software products, check out the upcoming product show this July 11 and 12 at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel. For more details, contact Fuji Xerox Philippines, Inc., 19th floor, 6788 Building, Ayala Avenue, Makati City, 878-5200, 886-7135 (fax), email: [rox-ee@ph.fujixerox.com](mailto:rox-ee@ph.fujixerox.com), or visit their Website at [www.fujixerox.com.ph](http://www.fujixerox.com.ph).

## Genius intros Navigator 535 Laser Gaming Mouse

**GENIUS RELEASES ITS LATEST POWERFUL**  
and innovative laser gaming mouse, Navigator  
535 for professional gamers looking for high per-  
formance and unique gaming mouse.

The most revolutionary function of Navigator 535 is its memory button, which can store up to five gaming profiles. Using Agama software, simply set up the mouse once and in a snap you're on the go to create your profile. Since your profile is stored on the mouse, you don't need to use the driver again even if you use Navigator 535 on any computer. You can take Navigator 535 wherever you go and you can easily access your game profiles. The green LED lights of G1 to G5 will blink one by one while pushing the memory button and you can choose which profile to use.

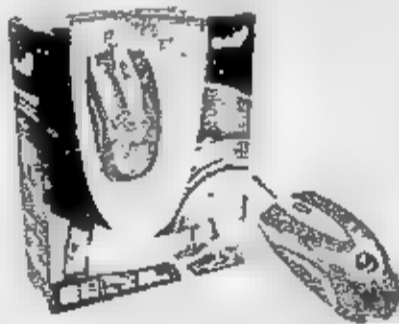
Navigator 535 provides an incredible 100x more sensitivity to surface detail or tracking power than an optical device, and the laser engine provides an astounding 6.4 mega pixels per second. It is ergonomically designed for your hand and wrist for long-term usage and comfort.

You can even switch the resolution of Navigator 535 to 2000, 1600 or 800 dpi with the three hot keys while you are playing the game. Just press one button on Navigator 535, and you can get the highest speed (7080 frame rate and 1000

report rate) with the smoothest motion in your virtual world—shooting, fighting, flying or racing. And when you're done with your virtual adventure, you can adjust the resolution to 800 dpi.

You can set a macro, continuous click, single click or other functions into the seven mouse buttons including the four side buttons. These programmable buttons add more fun to your gaming experience.

In the Philippines, Genius products are exclusively distributed by MSI-ECS (Phils). For more information on Genius products, contact James Ong at 688-3716 or e-mail [jong@msi-ecs.com.ph](mailto:jong@msi-ecs.com.ph). (SRP TBD)



## OWWA and Microsoft empower OFWs through technology

**THE OVERSEAS WORKERS**  
Welfare Administration (OWWA) and Microsoft Philip-  
pines, in partnership with Intel  
Microelectronics Philippines  
and the Philippine Long Dis-  
tance and Telecommunications  
Company (PLDT), recently  
launched "Konek Ka D'yan," a  
special personal computer (PC)  
purchase program designed to  
enable Overseas Filipino Work-  
ers (OFWs) to stay in touch with  
their families through technol-  
ogy.

Konek Ka D'yan is part of Microsoft's Partnerships for Technology Access (PTA), a global initiative focused on creating micro-financing solutions to enable consumers in emerging markets to purchase their first computer. DFWs can avail of Intel-based PCs equipped with Windows XP operating systems based on a 12-month installment plan under the QWWA's Family Assistance Loan (FAL). The PCs are pre-configured to include a modem, a webcam and headset.

Konek Ka D'yon was officially launched in a grand event attended by OFW families at the

Glorietta Activity Center, Makati City. Photo above shows (back row, from left) Microsoft Philippines managing director Antonio Javier, Jr., Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas, and OWWA Administrator Mariano Roque pressing the Windows "Start" button to formally launch the program. Joining them are (front row, from left) Channarong Boonrajanasatui, Intel SEA regional manager; and Raul Alvarez, PLDT assistant vice president for marketing services.

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**Think PC**

HO recommends Microsoft  
Windows XP Professional



# HP Compaq Thin Clients

### HP Compaq t5520 Thin Client

Enhanced features make this ideal for mainstream business use, with Microsoft Windows CE 5.0 and software support for ICA, RDP, terminal emulation and basic web browsing.

- 800 MHz Via processor
- 64 MB flash memory for drivers and applications, 128 MB system memory (includes 16 MB reserved for graphics usage)
- Microsoft Windows CE 5.0
- Four USB 2.0 ports, parallel, serial and PS/2 connectors, and wireless LAN.
- MultiBay and security options
- Altiris Deployment Solution

## HP Compaq t5525 Thin Client

Enhanced features make this ideal for mainstream business use, with Linux and software support for ICA, RDP, X terminal and web browsing.

- 800 MHz Via processor
- Includes Firefox 1.x browser with Sun Java, Adobe Acrobat Reader, Citrix ICA, rdesktop RDP client, SSH, HP Connection Administrator and VNC
- Four USB 2.0 ports and parallel, serial and PS/2 connectors
- Supported by a Board Support Package from Metrowerks, designed for use with Metrowerks Platform Creation Suite to allow more extensive image customizations (go to [www.metrowerks.com/MW/Develop/Embedded/Linux/hpthinclient.htm](http://www.metrowerks.com/MW/Develop/Embedded/Linux/hpthinclient.htm) for more information)

### HP Compaq t5720 Thin Client

Expanded options support and full-featured browser make this the optimum choice for maximum flexibility and power.

- AMD Geode NX 1500 Processor
- Up to 512 MB flash memory and 512 MB system memory (includes 16 MB reserved for processor usage on 800 MHz model or 24 MB reserved on 1.2 GHz model)
- Microsoft Windows XP Embedded SP2, with pre-installed Sygate Security Agent
- ATI Radeon 7000M graphics with 16 MB of discrete graphics memory
- Common code base with XP Pro and local application support for:
  - customer developed apps
  - communication/collaboration apps (VOIP, NetMeeting, IM)
  - database access apps (SAP, PeopleSoft, financial, etc)
- Optional PCI slot and XP driver support maximizes flexibility for options and peripherals.

HP recommends Windows® XP Professional.

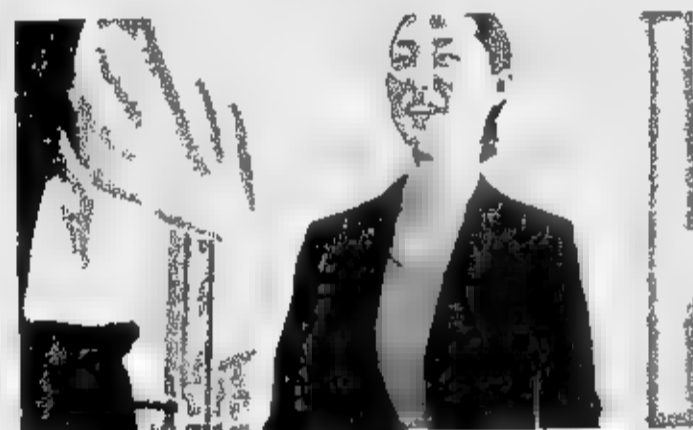


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The HP Compaq i5720 Thin Client family powered by the AMD Geode NX1500 Processor provides a wide range of configurations that suits a variety of requirements, combining server-based solutions with desktop-like user experience. Plus it's easy to setup. It can be fully deployed out of the box in less than 10 minutes. You get lower TCO and faster turn around time. Downtime is reduced as users can reboot in less than a minute. Support staff is also minimized because it allows regular upgrades remotely and faster than in a desktop environment. With the HP Compaq i5720 you get instant business productivity plus lower overhead cost. And it's backed by our unrivaled HP Total Care services, for every stage of your product's life.

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## The HP Compaq t5000 Thin Client series

**Simple, dependable and secure**

Thin Clients are compact, robust, secure and highly reliable devices that provide input/output functionality (via mouse, keyboard and monitor) in a server-based computing environment. The HP Compaq t5000 Thin Client family offers a wide range of configurations that suits a variety of requirements, combining server-based solutions with desktop-like user experience.

**Slim fit**

Certain enterprises can benefit greatly from deployment of their clients:

- Departments that carry out highly standardized tasks can save significant cost by choosing thin clients instead of desktop PCs. These include sales or service call centers, data entry departments or technical support desks.
- Enterprises with a network of computers connected to a centralized mission-critical server can benefit from thin client reliability, such as hospitals, insurance agencies, airline reservation centers and hotels.
- Businesses that currently use dumb terminals can upgrade to thin clients for a more robust platform that can handle e-mail clients as well as common business applications.

### Slim power

HP Compaq Thin Clients come with a host of advantages as a result of HP innovation and commitment to quality.

### Easy to deploy

Ready to run, right out of the box, with a familiar desktop environment and HP's automated setup and configuration technology.

## Manageable

Comes with Altiris Deployment Solution, flexible image updating, true bandwidth throttling and management, integration into HP Openview and remote management via a web browser.

**Secure**

Remote BIOS configurability allows lockdown of data ports and user access, while communication between client and Deployment Server Console is encrypted. Security is enhanced with local storage disabled, hardened user profiles and partitioning to limit OS vulnerability. Sygate Security Agent is pre-installed on every Microsoft Windows XP model.

**Reliable**

Industry-standard designs and technologies, tested to the limit by HP, result in highly reliable thin clients. A discreet ROM for the BIGs protects it from accidental corruption or modification.

BANAWÉ Rice Terraces,  
inscribed in the Unesco  
World Heritage list

# LIFE STYLE

Subsection Editor Lito B. Zulueta

For more information, visit [lifestyle.inquirer.com.ph](http://lifestyle.inquirer.com.ph) or call 2207 (Globe) and 386 (Smart) or email us at [lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph](mailto:lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph)



## Garden landscapes are also part of heritage

**T**HE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL of Monuments and Sites (Icomos), the global organization of heritage practitioners based in Paris, is the body that officially advises the Unesco World Heritage Committee on cultural heritage issues.

Usually the World Heritage Center calls on Icomos members to give expert opinions on heritage issues raised by members of the World Heritage Committee. Icomos is assigned to assess sites that are nominated to the World Heritage List. It is asked to evaluate the maintenance of inscribed World Heritage sites and to prescribe methods for improvement.

However, the more important aspect of Icomos is that the organization sets international standards to guide the conservation profession. These are written out in a series of charters, resolutions and declarations that cover practically all aspects of the conservation practice.

The 1964 International Charter for the Conservation and Restoration of Monuments and Sites, popularly known as the Venice Charter, sets the standard. It establishes the basic principles and guidelines that are followed by conservation practitioners all over the world today.

The Venice Charter maintains that the historic monuments of past generations are living witnesses of their age-old traditions. People are now more conscious of the unity of shared human values and regard ancient monuments as common heritage. Therefore the responsibility to safeguard them for future generations is recognized. It is the people's duty to safeguard them for future generations and to hand the monuments to the next generations in the full richness of their authenticity.

"It is essential that the principles guiding the preservation and restoration of ancient buildings should be agreed and be laid down on an international basis, with each country being responsible for applying the plan within the framework of its own culture and traditions," the charter says.

The charter adds, "The concept of a historic monument embraces not only the single architectural work but also its urban or rural setting."

### No alteration

Monuments are best when they are still in use. However, the original layout and decoration of the building should be maintained. To preserve the traditional setting of the monument, new construction, demolition or modification of surroundings should not alter the original relationship of the building with its neighbors.

A monument is inseparable from its history and setting. Moving all or part of a monument cannot be allowed except when it is safeguarding demands it, or when justified by national or international interest regarding it is of paramount importance.

On the restoration issue, the charter states:

### PRIDE OF PLACE



Augusto R.  
Villalon

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PROTEST art installation against the  
destruction of Mehan Garden

## 'Salumpuwit, atbp.' at the Met Museum

ON VIEW UNTIL JULY 22 AT THE Lor Calma Gallery of the Metropolitan Museum of Manila is an exhibition of contemporary chairs titled "Salumpuwit, atbp."

Using old and discarded local wood such as *balayong*, *kakantas*, *akle* and *ipil*, sculptor Jerry Araos creates architectural sculptures of the furniture piece for sitting that good-humored Pinoy is anointed as the *salumpuwit* or "butt-catcher." A recurring form is the individual seat carved as a torso with buttocks on both ends. It comes in a range of sizes adapted to the rear of its target sitter. There are seats for women, for men, for children, and even one for the "Alphabet."

Several pieces on exhibit are also sculpted according to the Filipino sitting habits such as *salampok* (sitting flopped down), *kuyakoy* (swinging one's legs back and forth while sitting), and the

Indian-sit (sitting with the legs crossed under the thighs). All the chairs and benches are marked by undulating silhouettes and interspersed circular details.

Hand-in-hand with the sculptural integrity of the works is the ergonomic design of the chairs. Subtle details

demonstrate the sculptor's awareness of the human body and his consideration for the comfort in sitting on a hard wooden material. Museum visitors are encouraged to sit on and experience the pieces.

"Salumpuwit, atbp." complements the ongoing exhibit, "Upan: Philippine Seating Arrangements During the American Colonial Era," which features over a hundred pieces of American period chairs. It is on view until Sept. 14.

The Metropolitan Museum of Manila is at the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Complex, Roxas Boulevard, Metro Manila. Museum hours are Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

For tour bookings, call 5237855, 5361566, or e-mail [info@metmuseum.ph](mailto:info@metmuseum.ph).



**BANGKONG** Pang-ungong Indian or bench for Indian-sit



**BANGKITONG** Panglalaki or small bench for men



**LUKLUKAN**

### VISUAL ARTS

#### Malang at Power Plant

Power Plant Manila presents "Malang's Women," by Mauro Malang Santos July 20-31. The exhibit pays tribute to one of Malang's most favorite subjects—women. Call 8981702 or 8111377



**"FRUIT Vendors"**



**"SIESTA (Pair)"** by Bencab

#### Bencab at CCP

The Cultural Center of the Philippines and ING Private Banking present a solo exhibit by recently proclaimed National Artist Benedicto "Bencab" Cabrera, "Bencab on Paper: Prints and Paper Pulp Paintings," which opens July 13 at the CCP Bulwagang Juan Luna. Curated by Ambeth Ocampo, the exhibit will feature recent works of Bencab from his artistic residency at the Singapore Tyler Print Institute this year. The exhibit will run until Sept. 3. Call 8323702.

#### Group show at West

West Gallery is holding the group exhibit "The Way We Get By," July 11-29. Mariano Ching continues to explore the layering of images and the



**"GREAT Expectation,"** by Keiye Miranda Tuazon

multiple meanings they produce. Yasmin Sison-Ching takes the point of view of a child on collective and personal memories and their fictive qualities in "Tale" series. Geraldine Javier's "Tom Waits' Lullaby" series features bird images embroidered on fabric with background floral designs as substitutes for original living objects. Keiye Miranda-Tuazon situates her figures underwater. Lyra Garcelfiano uses plastic letters glued on a white wall in "Everybody's Desperate to Be Relevant." Christina Dy uses large-scale drawings to show the various aspects of voyeurism. The exhibit also features Gary Pastrana. West Gallery is at the new Mary Santos Arcade, 4 West Ave., QC. Call 4110336 or 4119221

#### Magno at Cubicle

The Cubicle Art Gallery presents "Schizophrenia," recent works by Angelo Magno, July 15-Aug. 12. The artist creates an installation of multiple drawings inspired by events and personalities. Magno plays with icons and images and create nuances and tensions on their conventional meanings. The Cubicle Art Gallery is at 40a C. Raymundo Ave. and Stella Maris, Pasig. Call 8416700.

#### Wuzela at German Club

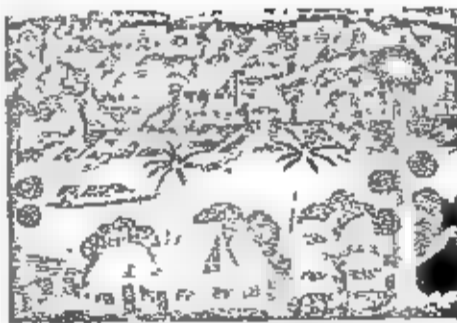
The German Club presents Lily Avila-Wuzela in "Sequela," which opens today. The exhibit is a sequel to her first exhibit of expressionist oil-on-canvas paintings depicting women and flowers. Call 0921 2397025.



**LILY Avila-Wuzela**

#### Print-art lecture at Lopez

The Lopez Museum will hold a lecture on prints, July 15, 2-4 p.m. Ambie Abano and the Philippine Association of Printmakers will conduct the lecture. Fee is at P120. The Lopez Museum is at the G/F, Benpres Bldg., Exchange Road and Meralco Avenue, Pasig. Call 6312417



**"SATABING flag,"** by Lodronio

#### Lodronio at De las Islas

Galeria de las Islas presents "A Glimpse of the Countryside," an exhibit of oil on canvas by Crisanto Lodronio. It opens today at Ilustrado Restaurant, across the courtyard of the Silahis Center, 744 Gen. Luna St., Intramuros, Manila, and runs until Sept. 30. Call 5272113.

#### Gaudinez, Nuestro at Alliance Française

Alliance Française Total Gallery presents "Trace/Re-trace," an exhibit by Gaudinez and Nuestro, July 12-Aug. 12. Gaudinez delves into precolonial motifs in his Maharlika series, composed in the abstract mode. Nuestro's "Dambana" series in acrylic on unfolded, torn and aged paper, tries to simulate earthly ambiance as well as the spiritual, inspired by early Filipino animistic belief of sacred place in nature.

#### Caasi, Pueblo, Farol at Blanc

Blanc Art Space (2E Crown Tower, 107 H.V. dela Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati) presents "Drippingpsych," July 14-Aug. 5. The exhibit features three contemporary artists: painter Ruel Caasi; glass sculptor Noell Et Farol; and multimedia artist, Mervy Pueblo. Call 7520032 or 9114726.



**UNTITLED,** by Ruel Caasi

From page C1

"The process of restoration is a highly specialized operation. Its aim is to preserve and reveal the aesthetic and historic value of the monument, and is based on respect for original material and authentic documents. It must stop at the point where conjecture begins, and, in this case moreover, any extra work which is indispensable must be distinct from the architectural composition and must bear a contemporary stamp. The restoration in any case must be preceded and followed by an archeological and historical study of the monument."

"The valid contributions of all periods to the building of a monument must be respected, since unity of style is not the aim of a restoration. When a building includes the superimposed work of different periods, the revealing of the underlying state can only be justified in exceptional circumstances and when what is removed is of little interest and the material, which is brought to light is of great historical, archeological or aesthetic value, and its state of preservation good enough to justify the action. Evaluation of the importance of the elements involved and the decision as to what may be destroyed cannot rest solely on the individual in charge of the work."

"Replacements of missing parts must integrate harmoniously with the whole, but at the same time must be distinguishable from the original so that restoration does not falsify the artistic or historic evidence."

The 1981 Florence Charter on Historic Gardens defines a historic

garden as a monument, an "architecture of interest to the public from the historical or artistic point of view," and, as a monument, it "must be preserved in accordance with the spirit of the Venice Charter."

The term "historic garden" is equally applicable to small gardens and to large landscaped parks. Whatever their size, designed gardens express the affinity between man and nature.

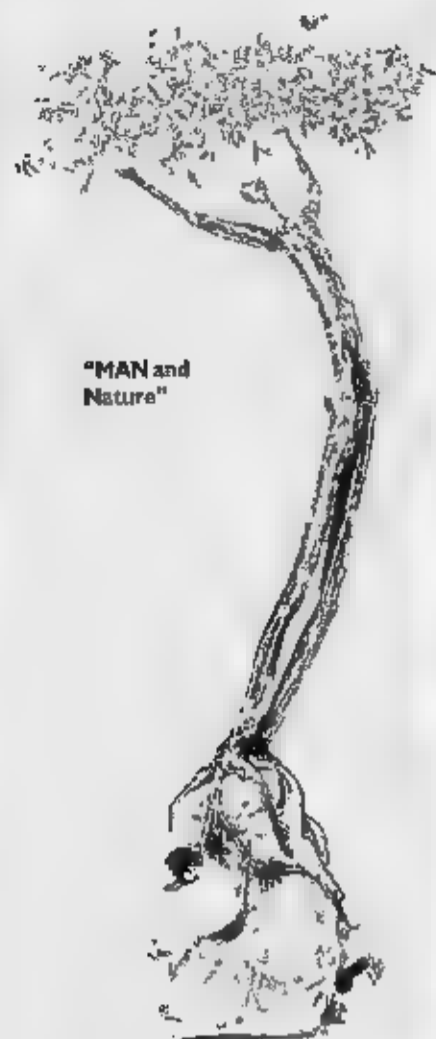
Gardens are alive. Therefore continuous maintenance with a specified cycle of planting and replanting is required to keep the garden and its decorative features in the unchanged condition required by the Venice Charter.

The Florence Charter specifies procedures to be followed for restoration and reconstruction of historic gardens, further recommending that gardens must be open for public use but must not be taxed by overuse, and continues to suggest that qualified professionals be engaged to maintain historic gardens.

Philippine society in general is unaware of the landscape architecture profession and of the historic significance of the designed landscape. The Mehan Garden and Arroceros Forest Park debates are proof of national disrespect for the designed landscape. Recent constructions that intrude on the open space of R.za. Park, a national monument protected by the National Historical Institute, further illustrate disregard for the designed landscape.

Comments are welcome at [pride.place@gmail.com](mailto:pride.place@gmail.com)

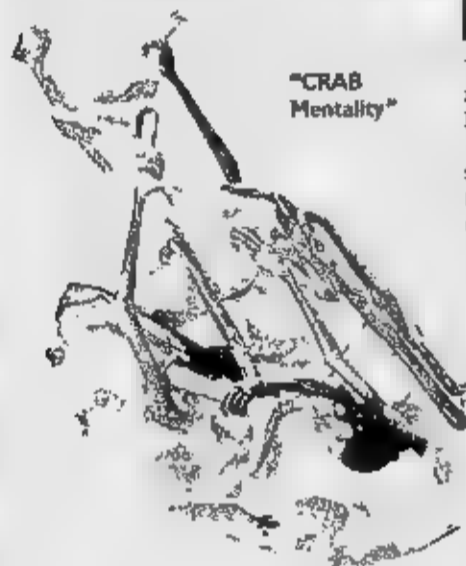




"MAN and Nature"



## Cacnio in red



"CRAB Mentality"

TOP SCULPTOR MICHAEL CACNIO IS mounting "Reflections on Red" at the Ayala Museum.

Presented by Canvas, the exhibit shows the sculptor continuing with his social commentary by depicting ills and concerns such as crab mentality and corruption.

Cacnio also parleys triumphs of the human spirit in his metaphorical brass pieces such as "Trial and Perseverance" and "Man and Nature."

All the sculptures, for the first time, incorporates the color red, and will be accompanied by short stories, poems or writings from the Kuwentista ng mga Taling (Kuting), the premier association of Filipino children's storywriters.

The show opens on July 21, 6 p.m. Call 09178-906160 or visit [www.canvas.ph](http://www.canvas.ph)

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## Don't miss out on life's little moments!

Have you ever come inside from a smoke-break to find you've missed out on a great conversation or funny joke? Have you ever missed out on a picture-perfect moment of your child because you just couldn't resist the craving any longer? Have you ever found yourself running embarrassingly late to a social event because you had to have "one last cigarette" before you left the house?

"Smoking can be addicting. Cigarettes fulfill the criteria for substance dependence as they deliver significant amounts of nicotine which is a positive reinforcer. When a

person quits the habit, he experiences several withdrawal symptoms during abstinence which is only relieved by nicotine administration," explains Dr. Daniel Tan, president of Tobacco-Free Philippines.

Nicotine is one of over 4,000 substances found in cigarette smoke. It's a common misconception that it causes cancer but it does not. Instead, it is the other substances in cigarettes that are mainly responsible for bringing physical damage to your body. Nicotine in cigarettes is what makes it so hard to stop smoking.

### A Welcome Arrival

This is where the Nicorette (nicotine) gum comes in. It is a form of Nicotine Replacement Therapy (NRT) that has assisted thousands of smokers around the world for over 20 years to beat the habit by controlling their cravings. Now smokers need only chew mint-flavored and sugar-free Nicorette gum to provide their body with just enough nicotine to reduce the cravings.

Dr. Lenora Fernandez, Clinical Associate Professor at the Department of Medicine at the UP College of Medicine,

welcomes the arrival of Nicorette in the country. "The availability of a pharmacological treatment like the Nicorette gum will further boost the country's smoking cessation programs. The use of Nicorette along with a stop smoking program will definitely increase success rates of those who want to quit smoking." And Dr. Fernandez should know. She is also the Consultant Coordinator of Philippine General Hospital's Comprehensive Ambulatory Respiratory (CARE) Program and Stop Smoking Program.

**Don't think cigarettes. Think Nicorette.**

Nicorette gum is highly recommended

for people who need to relieve their withdrawal symptoms because they want to stop smoking immediately, or want to reduce smoking gradually, then quit.

It works by releasing nicotine into the saliva and is absorbed through the lining of the mouth. Its effect is a noticeable decrease in both the cravings and withdrawal symptoms that a smoker goes through when trying to quit. Nicorette and willpower combined doubles one's chances of quitting successfully.

By using Nicorette when cravings strike, smokers can get on the path to giving up smoking and focus on their pastimes and hobbies, stay in the company of their friends and families and enjoy life to the fullest.

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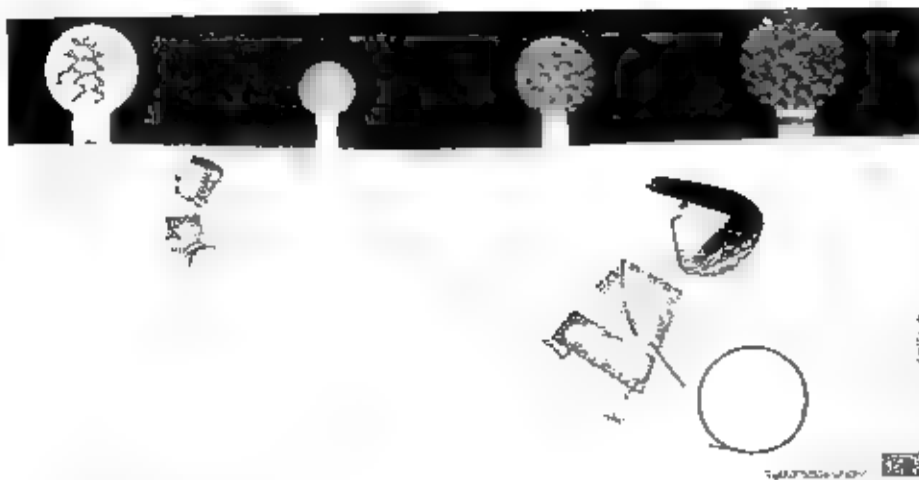
**Missing out?**  
Don't think cigarettes. Think Nicorette.



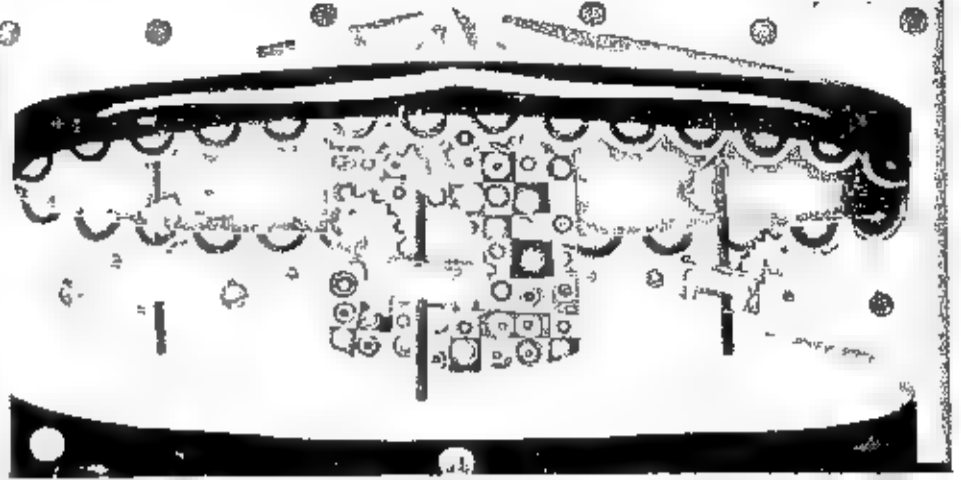
It's time to get the most out of life. Quit the easy way with the most popular Nicotine Replacement Therapy worldwide. Nicorette (nicotine) gum is a smoker's companion in the difficult process of quitting. Unlike confectionary gum, it's clinically proven to help control cravings, doubling your chances of successfully beating the addiction. Get started now and enjoy life more.

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Cartoonish art transfixes with its brilliant colors and lines conjuring a complex of emotions



"ROLLING the Hours (for Zack)"



"CAROUSEL"

## The impish charm of Farley del Rosario

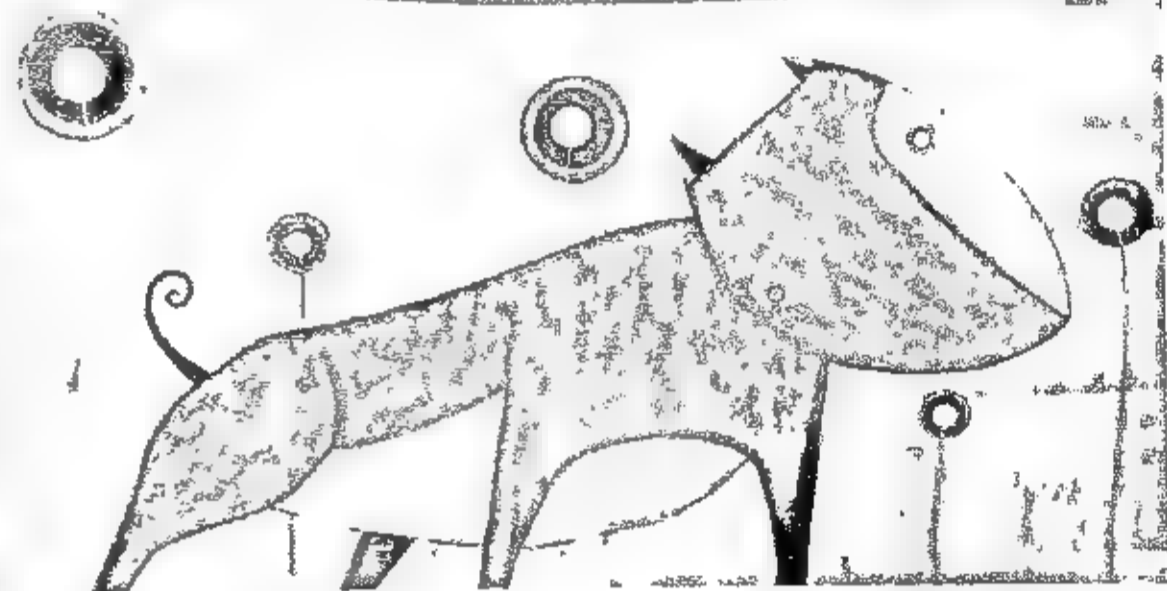
By Lito B. Zulueta

THEIR IMPISH QUALITY MASKS THEIR genial devilry. That's probably the best way to describe the strange figures that inhabit the world of Farley del Rosario's canvases. The figures represent nothing at all bizarre or out of this world. In De Rosario's newest oil-and-acrylic series, "At Play" (running until July 12 at Blanc Art Space, 2E Crown Tower, 107 De La Costa St., Saicedo Village, Makati City, tel. 7520032 and 0920-9276436), the figures are predictably children at play in the amusement park. There are also domestic animals that seem to have been battered or grown too

comfortable in their domestication. In short, these are happy figures, utterly happy.

Their lightness is easily prefigured in the lines, specifically Del Rosario's vintage string-necks that seem to transform the heads into kites. The possibility that the artist has drawn his figures from the playful kite is not remote since Del Rosario has always mined the rich memories of childhood to depict his intriguing figures. The kite-metaphor gives his figures their magical spirit, their joyous quality.

The lighthearted lines are complemented by the colors. Del Rosario's dominant green shades are still here, grown even lighter and sun-kissed. In what could be a slight assay at



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breadth and kaleidoscope, he mottles certain figures in his canvases, such as the inflatable pool in "Fellow Yellow," the table in "Morning Coffee," and the merry-go-round in "Carousel" so that they seem like Pucci prints in various blushes and flushes. The effect provides contrast to the wash of crystal, clear aquas, pale fuschias and lemon greens. The colors aren't exactly kindergarten, but they hold the distracted eye, like a colorful toy hanging over the crib, mesmerizing the tender resident.

In some instances, the figures are set against their surroundings, such as in "Carousel" and "Rolling the Hours," so that they contrast and meld. In the former, the vertical figure of the boy riding the toy-horse provides the contrast and balance to the kaleidoscope on the merry-go-round. In the latter, the boys running their toy-wheels on the rolling terrain provide a sense of flight adrift gravity's pull. The effect is surprising, tranquil.

### Romantic piece

But more surprising, despite the inherent romance of Del Rosario's pieces, the work that is most redolent with romance is one that depicts domestic animals. In "The Distance Between Us," two dogs steal glances at each other while all around them, the field seems to bloom with promises of love. The scene is sweet and poignant.

The series departs from Del Rosario's earlier explorations of pain and struggle that were somehow restrained or provided with an ironic balance by his trademark cartoon-strip renderings in olive colors. Looking back, part of the collector's fascination with these earlier works were their prefiguration of the struggles of growing up and early adulthood through lines that, at first blush, seem unsophisticated, and colors that were deceptively calm.

In his new series, Farley del Rosario pushes the envelope, and depicts childhood scenes of play and abandon with lines and colors that seem to perfectly complement them to a gaudy edge.

Are his works too gaudy for comfort? No, on the contrary, they are deceptively simple. His kite-figures reveal the tensils of faith and spirit, grasping at the flow and mystery of the cosmos. Del Rosario may be young, but his cartoonish art is not wet behind the ears. It's an art awash with tender but complex emotions.

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## CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

**Difficulty Level** ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

## HIYAS HILA CONCERT

## More opera productions this season

By Pablo A. Tariman  
Contributor

FROM WHAT WE CAN glean, there is an upsurge of opera (or opera-related activities) in Manila's otherwise moribund opera front.

From the UP College of Music came a twin-bill of Mozart's "The Impresario" and Leoncavallo's "Pagliacci" early this month. On July 12-22, "Masterclass" will open at the RCBC Hall, courtesy of the Philippine Opera Company which announced the play (inspired by Maria Callas's Juilliard masterclass) as part of an "opera" season. The same company will mount "Opera Now" July 29 and among the talents recruited is the Berlin-based (and brand new mother) Andion Fernandez. Here's hoping the production will be high on music and singing and play down the fashion side. Last year, no amount of production values could hide the fact that some singers are better off hidden in the chorus line.

From Singapore, three outstanding Filipino singers are in the lead roles of the Singapore Lyric Opera production of Mozart's "Marriage of Figaro" at the Esplanade Theater. They are baritone Andrew Fernando (as Count Almaviva), Rachelle Gerodias (as Susanna) and tenor Lemuel de la Cruz (as Don Basilio). Director is David Edwards who has done productions at London's Covent Garden and La Scala di Milan. Play dates are July 14, 15 and 17. (For package tour arrangement for this Singapore Opera treat, call 9468252 and 7261567, or text 0918-XINTALIA).

Come late September, the University of Santo Tomas Conservatory of Music will also mount Tchaikovsky's "Eugene

Onegin" with Gerodias, De la Cruz and Fernando in the lead roles. Dean Raul Sunico is in the thick of preparations and we hope the public and private sectors would lend their support to these once-in-a-blue-moon cultural endeavors.

The most admirable part of the UP twin-bill production is that it made use of the services of the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra with two conductors alternating: Nonoy Diestro for Leoncavallo's opera and Michi Martinez for Mozart's. With just a basic stage set and minimal production and costume design, the twin-bill managed to give opera-starved audiences an appealing appetizer and a passable main course. The spoken parts for "The Impresario" was in English and for the most part, the singing parts were in German. Tenor Raymond Leslie Diaz in the title role managed to essay the role of the harassed impresario. The battle of the divas (played by Mary Anne Lanuza as Madam Goldentrill and Katrina Saporisantos as Madam Silverpeal) was on the whole entertaining with subtle amusement thrown on the side (the scene reminded me of the Paco Park engagement of sopranos Luz Morete and Andion Fernandez in one setting with mentor Pides Cuyugan Asensio in the audience). The sopranos were just right for the parts and Saporisantos showed off her golden Mozart line to good advantage. Conductor Martinez and the PPO lent excellent support. As for Pagliacci, the most admirable part was conductor Nonoy Diestro and the PPO giving superb ensemble support to both the soloists and the chorus. Baritone Lionel Guico as Tonio sang a fairly good Prologo. Camille Lopez as Nedda was vocally superb for the part and Greg Abelardo de Leon was fairly en-



HANNA Lyn Tan, pianist



NATIONAL Artist for Music Antonino Buenaventura with legendary conductor Herbert von Karajan during the latter's Manila visit in 1957

gaging as Silvio. Tenor Ramon Acrymo managed to elicit pathos in the signature aria, "Veste la giubba" with palpable hint of jealousy and despair. But many in the audience missed the ironic laughter in the aria. On the whole, it was a good showcase of what opera can offer, and I am sure with better budget and better logistics, a grand production is in the off-

Director Tony Espejo was imaginative enough to make do with the bare set and Joey Nombres provided dramatic lighting.

## Here and there

Recommended reading for music lovers is the book, "The Life and Music of Col. Antonino Buenaventura," written by his granddaughter Ma. Beatriz Buenaventura Salipsip. The life of the National Artist for Music is told from a fami-

ly member's point of view, and it is absorbing reading as readers find out that everything about this composer's life revolved around music. Copies of this book is available at the CCP Gift Shop.

Hiyas Hila, another outstanding product of the Philippine High School for the Arts and now pursuing a doctoral degree at the School of Music of the University of Minnesota, is all set for a homecoming concert Aug. 11 at the Philamlife Theater. It is solo program in the first part (Beethoven's 32 Variations in C Minor and Schubert's Sonata in A Minor, Op. 42) and orchestral program in the last half (Mozart's Concerto in A Major, K. 488) with Hiyas as soloist of the Manila Symphony Orchestra under the baton of Arturo Molina. Hila is a winner of the university's concerto competition and first prize winner of the annual scholar-

ship competition of the Schubert Club of Minnesota. For tickets, please call 9007023 or text 0906-5104270.

Young Hannah Lyn Tan, student of pianist Mary Anne Espina, will have a solo recital at the Philamlife Theater July 16, 4:30 p.m. Program: Bach's Prelude and Fugue in F Minor, Mozart's Sonata in D Major, No. 9, Debussy's Prelude from Suite pour le piano, Khachaturian's Toccata, Chino Toledo's Layered Images and Chopin's Scherzo in C Sharp Minor, Op. 39. For tickets, call 9007023 or text 0906-5104270.

Tickets to the July 24 Oliver Salonga recital in Bacolod City are available at the Cecile Music Center (tel. 4320631) and Byline (0917-8058501). Also call 0921-3405200 c/o Johna. Early discount available; call 0906-5104270.

## Writer Abad graces Rome arts festival

UP UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR EMERITUS Geminio H. Abad, renowned Filipino poet and literary scholar, has been invited by Allegorein Rome's cultural association as one of the featured poets for the third Mediterranean Intercontinental Festival of Literature and Arts to be held in Rome July 10-26.

Abad will read his poems with other poets in the town of Cerveteri and the University of Rome La Sapienza. His poem, "The Pope Expects Certain Saints," will be exhibited in a Roman public square with other poets' works and included in an anthology of poems on Rome. He will also deliver a public lecture at the University of Rome La Sapienza.

He is the only Filipino invited to the cultural event, which will gather poets, writers and artists from the Mediterranean nations, as well as writers who, while they may not be Mediterranean, "recognize themselves ideally and expressively in the dialogical and multicultural values of a common Mediterranean identity."

Poets will meet in Rome, Ladispoli, Cerveteri, Santa Marinella, and in other towns of the



GEMINIO Abad

Latium Region and interact with theater, music and dance artists "to express in different ways the same language of freedom, the opening to a pluralistic world, the fight against exploitation, war and terrorism." The culminating activity will be a "poetry meeting."

Allegorein is presided over by professor and critic Filippo Bettini. The association conceived of and organized the event in collaboration with the Latium Region, Link Campus University of Malta's Mediterranean Cultural and Literature Centre, the Athenaeum Centre University of Rome La Sapienza, and the University of Rome La Sapienza. The festival is being promoted by the Province of Rome.

Mediterranea aims to showcase promoting the idea of a "Mediterranean Europe," which includes countries and cultures of other continents facing the Mediterranean Sea (Africa and Asia). At the same time, it aims to open the Mediterranean viewpoint to cultures far from the Sea but which share common values with the Mediterranean civilization. The festival also covers cinema, the visual arts and video.



LIESL Batucan and Niccolo Manahan thinking about their marriage in the "Cantata for a Wedding" in the Musical "I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change"

## Rep restages romantic musical

REPERTORY PHILIPPINES IS re-staging the hit musical "I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change" July 22, 8 p.m., at On-stage! Greenbelt 1, Ayala Center, Makati City.

Described as Broadway's answer to everything you wanted to know about love, dating and relationships, "I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change" stars four leading Rep veterans—Cathy Azanza, Liesl Batucan, Robbie Guevara and Niccolo Manahan—who portray more than 60 roles in this two-hour rollicking revue of sketch-

es and musical numbers.

Act I explores the journey from dating to marriage, while Act II reveals the agonies and triumphs of in-laws and newborns, trips in the family car and looking for love after the death of a spouse.

Audiences in Cebu will also get to experience "I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change" July 28, 8 p.m., at the SM Cinema 2, SM City-Cebu. Call 8919999 for the Manila show, and Little Boy Productions at 0917-8155794 for the Cebu show.



CATHY Azanza and Robbie Guevara in the very funny "Tear Jerk" scene

WHEN ESTHER ABAD FOUND OUT SHE won the PowerBooks 100 Book Spree, her kids immediately joked that either the specialty store was getting tired of her constant presence or that God must have noted her love of books and decided to throw in a hundred more her way. In any case, Esther felt that it was a dream come true.

And nobody was more deserving than this certified bibliophile who has finally completed her book choices, all 100 of them. Spanning different genres, Esther's picks for her grand prize win included "Architecture in the 20th Century," "City Interiors," "God Created the Integers," "Great Escapes," "The Da Vinci Code," "Improving Employee Performance," "Le Cordon Bleu Quick & Light" and "Total Chinese Learning."

The architect (she works at W.B. Coscolluela and Associates), interior designer and mom of three cites her grandmother as the person from whom she got her passion for reading.

After many years of reading and buying her favorite titles, Esther has built an impressive book collection which she estimates to be worth over P500,000. She calls her home in Essensa at The Fort a "mini PowerBooks."

Her kids got bitten by the reading bug as well, "so every one in the family wears eyeglasses because we normally read late into the night." She is exceedingly happy about having a reading family, although she advises



CERTIFIED bookworm Esther Abad won 100 titles of her choice in the PowerBooks 100 Book Spree Raffle.

her kids on choosing their books carefully and ensuring the appropriateness of the content.

Books for Esther are wonderful tools for education. "I do not think that I'm such a smart person, that's why I keep reading. You can gain a lot of knowledge from books. My father only finished second grade but never stopped reading. Henry Sy, who only finished Grade 6 continued to read and learn. Well, just look at

him now."

PowerBooks Specialty Store is a complete one-stop bookstore with branches at Greenbelt 4 (tel. 7576428 to 29), SM Megamall (6352898 to 99), Alabang Town Center (8505662 to 63), Glorietta (7527075), Shangri-La (6380023/25), Robinson's Place Ermita (5233334/ 5243448), and Mall of Asia (5560244).



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## Angelica Panganiban, Bianca Gonzalez as cover girls

YOUNG ACTRESS ANGELICA PANGANIBAN is the first cover girl of Maxim Philippines edition.

The edition is now on its second printing after the first copies sold out quickly, according to ABS-CBN Publishing, publisher of Maxim Philippines.

Meanwhile, Adboard, the advertising industry's self-regulation body, rejected for a second time a proposed Bench-Maxim billboard featuring the cover photo taken by Victor Labrador, saying the design was "provocative." ABS-CBN Publishing said it would submit the design for the third time this week, using a different layout.

Maxim is the world's biggest men's magazine, with a worldwide readership of 20 million and 32 editions in 46 countries. The Philippine edition is the 31st.

Maxim is ABS-CBN Publishing's first franchise title.

Meanwhile, television host Bianca Gonzalez talks about life after Pinoy Big Brother in Metro Magazine's July issue.

"I was in the car and he [boyfriend Lino Cayetano] was at the gate and we were both crying," she recounts. "Maybe it's God's way of reminding us that things aren't always happy and easy. That we still need Him and can't face things alone."

Also in the issue is the "New Dress Code"—what to wear at work, whether you're job is corporate or creative—and the latest jewelry collections.



## Graphic launches essay contest

PHILIPPINE GRAPHIC NEWS WEEKLY Magazine and the Junior Chamber International Philippines or Philippine Jaycees launched recently the Philippine Graphic-Philippine Jaycees National Essay Writing Contest.

Signing the agreement were Benjamin V. Ramos, president of Philippine Graphic Publications Inc., and Ismael P. Penado, national president of the Philippine Jaycees.

The contest kicks off this month and has three categories—high school, college and professional. At stake are P 50,000, P 30,000, and P 20,000 for the top three winners.

Philippine Graphic executive editor Adrian Cristobal will head the board of judges. Interested parties may get the contest rules and entry forms from the weekly issues of Philippine Graphic and the Monday issues of Business Mirror newspaper.

The contest will also sponsor a national seminar on writing the essay, or commonly known today in literary circles as creative nonfiction, in eight cities nationwide soon.

Call 8140134 loc. 115 (look for Louie Jon Sanchez or Eloisa Laquian). Log on to [graphicjceesessay.blogspot.com](http://graphicjceesessay.blogspot.com) for details.

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